

Aruba

TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Monday, November 19, 2012

"This Is Not An Endorsement"

JULIE PACE

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — On the eve of his landmark trip to Myanmar, President Barack Obama tried to as-



U.S. President Barack Obama, left, and Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra walk to the Thai Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012.

(AP Photo/P.M. Monsivais)

sure critics that his visit was not a premature reward for a long-isolated nation still easing its way toward democracy.

"This is not an endorsement of the government," Obama said Sunday in Thailand as he opened a three-country dash through Asia.

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Balancing Act



Smoke rises after an Israeli forces strike in Gaza City, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned of a "significant" expansion of Israel's continuing assault on Gaza, and President Barack Obama defended Israel's right to protect itself. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangue)

US, Britain warn of risks of Israeli ground war

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — The U.S. and Britain on Sunday warned about the risks of Israel expanding its air assault on the Gaza Strip into a ground war, while vigorously defending the Jewish state's right to protect itself

against rocket attacks. The remarks by President Barack Obama and Britain Foreign Secretary William Hague were part of a diplomatic balancing act by the West as it desperately seeks an end to the escalating violence without alienating

its closest ally in the region. "Israel has every right to expect that it does not have missiles fired into its territory," President Barack Obama said at a news conference in Bangkok at the start of a three-nation visit to Asia. "If that can be accom-

plished without a ramping up of military activity in Gaza, that's preferable," Obama said. "It's not just preferable for the people of Gaza."

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Obama: Historic Myanmar visit underscores country's progress

Continued from front

"This is an acknowledgment that there is a process under way inside that country that even a year and a half, two years ago, nobody foresaw." Obama was set to become the first U.S. president

prosperity and security. Aides say Asia will factor heavily in Obama's second term as the U.S. seeks to expand its influence in an attempt to counter China. China's rise is also at play in Myanmar, which long has aligned itself with Beijing. But some in Myanmar fear

groups say Myanmar's government, which continues to hold hundreds of political prisoners and is struggling to contain ethnic violence, hasn't done enough to earn a personal visit from Obama. Speaking from neighboring Thailand, Obama said



U.S. President Barack Obama, right on red carpet, and Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, left on red carpet, attend the arrival ceremony at Thai Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012.

to visit Myanmar with Air Force One scheduled to touch down in Yangon on Monday morning. Though Obama planned to spend just six hours in the country, the much-anticipated stop came as the result of a remarkable turnaround in the countries' relationship. The president's Asia tour also marks his formal return to the world stage after months mired in a bruising re-election campaign. For his first postelection trip, he tellingly settled on Asia, a region he has deemed the region as crucial to U.S.

that China is taking advantage of its wealth of natural resources, so the country is looking for other partners to help build its nascent economy. Obama has rewarded Myanmar's rapid adoption of democratic reforms by lifting some economic penalties. The president has appointed a permanent ambassador to the country, also known as Burma, and pledged greater investment if Myanmar continues to progress following a half-century of military rule. But some human rights

(AP Photo/P.M. Monsivais) Sunday he was under no illusions that Myanmar had done all it needed to do. But he said the U.S. could play a critical role in helping ensure the country doesn't slip backward. "I'm not somebody who thinks that the United States should stand on the sidelines and not want to get its hands dirty when there's an opportunity for us to encourage the better impulses inside a country," Obama said during a joint press conference Sunday with Thailand's prime minister. □

AROUND THE WORLD

Mexico pans US shooting excuse

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Mexican attorney general's office says federal police who fired on a U.S. embassy vehicle, wounding two CIA officers, had nothing to do with a kidnapping investigation in the area. Assistant prosecutor Victoria Pacheco Jimenez says federal officers charged with attempted murder were not working on the kidnapping of a government official in the area south of Mexico City on Aug. 24, when they chased and fired 152 shots into an armored SUV with diplomatic plates. Pacheco said Sunday that the total number of officers involved has increased to 19. Only 15 are in custody so far. Federal police spokesman Jose Ramon Salinas said Sunday he had no comment. Federal police maintain that they shot at the car in a case of mistaken identity while investigating a kidnapping. □

Gay rights protesters clash in Paris

PARIS (AP) — The controversial Ukrainian group Femen, whose topless members stage pranks to support gay rights, have taunted a march in Paris by Catholics who oppose France's draft law to legalize gay marriage. The Catholic group Civitas organized Sunday's march by several thousand people carrying pro-family banners. Several Femen activists turned up topless, chanted "in gay we trust" and sprayed white powder from bottles. That prompted several anti-gay marriage protesters to hit the Femen members and push them to the ground. On Saturday several thousand people took to the streets in cities across France to protest the draft law, which could see marriage and adoption legalized for homosexual couples early next year. □

Jordan indicts 89 activists in revolt

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — A Jordanian official says the country's military prosecutor has charged 89 activists with inciting violent revolt, after protests over price hikes swept through the U.S.-allied kingdom last week. He says a total of 158 men in their 20s and 30s were arrested during riots that began on Tuesday that left one person dead and 75 others, including 58 policemen, injured. While 30 have been released for lack of evidence, the remaining 39 are still being questioned, he says. The 89 who have been charged face up to 15 years in jail. Protests across the country — featuring rare calls for the overthrow of the king — turned unusually violent last week. The official, who spoke on Sunday, insisted on anonymity as he was not authorized to speak about the case. □

Greek report paints bleak picture

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Employment in the Greek commerce sector shrank by over 12 percent in the past year and there is going to be no improvement in 2013, a report by the sector's main association claims. In a preview of its annual report, set to be released Monday, the National Confederation of Greek Commerce (ESEE) says the sector lost 93,500 jobs in the past year, or 12.2 percent, with the total number of employees in the sector, at 673,400, the lowest since 1999. □



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US, Britain warn of risks of Israeli ground war

Continued from front

It's also preferable for Israelis, because if Israeli troops are in Gaza, they're much more at risk of incurring fatalities or being wounded." The president spoke shortly before an Israeli airstrike leveled a home in a residential neighborhood. Palestinian medical officials said at least 11 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed. The attack was the single deadliest incident of the 5-day-old Israeli operation. The Israeli military said the target was a top rocket mastermind of the Islamic Jihad militant group. The claim could not be immediately verified, and the attack raised speculation that Israel could face increased international pressure if the civilian death toll continued to rise. Hague said Hamas, Gaza's militant rulers, "bears principal responsibility" for initiating the violence and must stop all rocket attacks on Israel. But Hague also made clear the diplomatic risks of an Is-

raeli escalation.

"A ground invasion is much more difficult for the international community to sympathize with or support, including the United Kingdom," he said.

Israeli officials say the airstrikes are aimed at ending

months of rocket fire out of the Hamas-ruled territory. Israel began the offensive with an unexpected airstrike that killed Hamas' military chief, and since then has targeted suspected rocket launchers and storage sites.

The Mideast ally is now at a crossroads: launch a ground invasion or pursue Egyptian-led truce efforts. But with Israel and Hamas far apart on any terms of cease-fire, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared at the start of the

weekly Cabinet meeting. "The Israeli military is prepared to significantly expand the operation." The crisis threatened to overshadow Obama's trip to Asia, which includes stops in Myanmar and Cambodia as part of a broader effort to expand the U.S. economic and military presence in a region long dominated by China. So far, the U.S. has thrown its weight behind Israel, and Obama has called on Egypt and Turkey to intervene on Israel's behalf. Obama said he has told Egypt's president, Mohamed Morsi, and Turkey's prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan that "those who champion the cause of the Palestinians should recognize that if we see a further escalation of the situation in Gaza, then the likelihood of us getting back on any kind of peace track that leads to a two-state solution is going to be pushed off way into the future." Obama also pointed to the next 48 hours "to see what kind of progress we can make." □



A young girl weeps during the funeral of a fighter with the al-Quds Brigade in Deir al-Balah, Gaza, on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned of a "significant" expansion of Israel's continuing assault on Gaza, and President Barack Obama defended Israel's right to protect itself.

(Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)

Search continues for man after oil platform accident

JANET McCONNAUGHEY

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — As crews searched Sunday for a Filipino worker still missing after an oil platform explosion and fire, doctors said one of four men burned in the blaze is improving and is now in fair condition. Two remained in critical condition and one in serious condition, doctors say. The company that owned the platform that caught fire in the Gulf of Mexico vowed Sunday to keep searching for a second

Filipino worker still missing after a body was found in about 30 feet (nine meters) of water near one leg of the platform. At Baton Rouge General Medical Center's burn unit, Wilberto Ilagan, 50, of the Philippines, told Dr. Jeffrey Littleton that he wanted to send a message, according to a news release Sunday. It was, "To my relatives, to my family, and to my country, I am alive and in good health. I am burned, but my heart and lungs are healthy." □

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Los Angeles:

Battle over coastal Christmas display goes to court

GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Damon Vix didn't have to go to court to push Christmas out of the city of Santa Monica. He just joined the festivities. The atheist's anti-God message alongside a life-sized nativity display in a park overlooking the beach ignited a debate that burned brighter than any Christmas candle.

Santa Monica officials snuffed the city's holiday tradition this year rather than referee the religious rumble, prompting churches that have set up a 14-scene Christian diorama for decades to sue over freedom of speech violations. Their attorney will ask a federal judge Monday to resurrect the depiction of Jesus' birth, while the city aims to eject the case.

"It's a sad, sad commentary on the attitudes of the day that a nearly 60-year-old Christmas tradition is

now having to hunt for a home, something like our savior had to hunt for a place to be born because the world was not interested," said Hunter Jameson, head of the nonprofit Santa Monica Nativity Scene

a tactical shift as atheists evolve into a vocal minority eager to get their non-beliefs into the public square as never before. The trouble in Santa Monica began three years ago, when Vix applied for and was granted

sign that quoted Thomas Jefferson: "Religions are all alike -- founded on fables and mythologies." The other side read "Happy Solstice." He repeated the display the following year but then upped the stakes

gion," which would include an artistic representation of the great Flying Spaghetti Monster. The secular coalition won 18 of 21 spaces. The two others went to the traditional Christmas displays and one to a Hanukkah display. The atheists used half their spaces, displaying signs such as one that showed pictures of Poseidon, Jesus, Santa Claus and the devil and said: "37 million Americans know myths when they see them. What myths do you see?" Most of the signs were vandalized and in the ensuing uproar, the city effectively ended a tradition that began in 1953 and earned Santa Monica one of its nicknames, the City of the Christmas Story.

The Santa Monica Nativity Scenes Committee argues in its lawsuit that atheists have the right to protest, but that freedom doesn't trump the Christians' right to free speech. □



A woman walks past a two of the traditional displays showing the Nativity scene along Ocean Avenue at Palisades Park in Santa Monica, Calif. (AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu)

Committee that is suing. Missing from the courtroom drama will be Vix and his fellow atheists, who are not parties to the case. Their role outside court highlights

ed a booth in Palisades Park alongside the story of Jesus Christ's birth, from Mary's visit from the Angel Gabriel to the traditional crèche. Vix hung a simple

significantly. In 2011, Vix recruited 10 others to inundate the city with applications for tongue-in-cheek displays such as a homage to the "Pastafarian reli-



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Benghazi 'talking points' to be probed by congress

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers said Sunday they want to know who had a hand in creating the Obama administration's now-discredited "talking points" about the Sept. 11 attack on a U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, and why a final draft omitted the CIA's early conclusion that terrorists were involved.

The answers could explain why President Barack Obama and top aides, including U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, described the attack for days afterward as a protest against an anti-Islam video that spontaneously turned violent and why they played down any potential link to al-Qaida, despite evidence to the contrary.

Administration officials have defended the portrayal of the attack as relying on the best information available at the time that didn't compromise classified intelligence. Democrats say CIA and other intelligence officials signed off on the final talking points. Republicans have alleged a Watergate-like cover up, accusing White House aides of hiding the



House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich. (Photo)

terrorism link in the run-up to the Nov. 6 presidential election so voters wouldn't question Obama's claim that al-Qaida's power had diminished. "I know the narrative was wrong and the intelligence was right. ... We're going to get to the bottom of how that happened," said Republican Rep. Mike Rogers, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee, said she doesn't believe the White House altered the document for political reasons. But she said she has lingering concerns about how the talking points were created when it was clear early on that the military-style as-

sault wasn't a simple protest gone awry. She said Congress has asked the administration to provide a detailed explanation. "We gave the direction yesterday that this whole process is going to be checked out," said Feinstein. "We're going to find out who made changes in the origi-

nal statement. Until, we do I really think it's unwarranted to make accusations." The inquiry comes on the heels of closed testimony to the committees last week by former CIA Director David Petraeus. According to lawmakers who attended the meetings, Petraeus said the reference to al-Qaida was removed from the final version of talking points, although he wasn't sure who or which federal agency deleted it. A senior U.S. official familiar with the document, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the process publicly, said the al-Qaida reference was deleted because the information came from classified sources and the links were tenuous. □

NYPD searching for links in shopkeeper shootings

NEW YORK (AP) — Police are searching for any further links in the deaths of three New York City shopkeepers who were shot by the same gun.

All three victims were of Middle Eastern descent. Their stores are within a 5-mile (8-kilometer) radius, and none of them have surveillance cameras.

The latest shooting death came Friday, when 78-year-old Rahmatollah Vahidipour was killed at his store, She She, in Brooklyn's Flatbush section.

He suffered gunshot wounds to the head and torso, police said. The New York Times reported the police thought Vahidipour was originally from Iran — and was Jewish.

Police said the same gun was used in the deaths of two other Brooklyn shopkeepers over the summer.

On July 6, clothing store owner Mohamed Gebeli was killed inside Valentino Fashion in Bay Ridge.

On Aug. 2, Isaac Kadare was found dead at his Amazing 99 Cents Deal shop in Bensonhurst. Gebeli and Kadare were both born in Egypt, the Times reported.

Authorities have said that ballistics evidence connected the weapon used in the first two deaths. Police say they don't know the motive behind any of the killings.

A call on Sunday to Vahidipour's home in Great Neck wasn't answered. □

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Fed-up San Francisco set sights on public nudity

LISA LEFF

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

San Francisco may be getting ready to shed its image as a city where anything goes, including clothing. City lawmakers are scheduled to vote Tuesday on an ordinance that would prohibit nudity in most public places, a blanket ban that represents an escalation of a two-year tiff between a devoted group of men who strut their stuff through the city's famously gay Castro District and the supervisor who represents the area. Supervisor Scott Wiener's proposal would make it illegal for a person over the age of 5 to "expose his or her genitals, perineum or anal region on any public



Demonstrators gather at a protest against a proposed nudity ban outside of City Hall in San Francisco.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

street, sidewalk, street median, parklet or plaza" or while using public transit. A first offense would carry a maximum penalty of a \$100

fine, but prosecutors would have authority to charge a third violation as a misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$500 fine and a year

in jail. Exemptions would be made for participants at permitted street fairs and parades, such as the city's annual gay pride event and the Folsom Street Fair, which celebrates sado-masochism and other sexual subcultures.

Wiener said he resisted introducing the ordinance, but felt compelled to act after constituents complained about the naked men who gather in a small Castro plaza most days and sometimes walk the streets au naturel.

He persuaded his colleagues last year to pass a law requiring a cloth to be placed between public seating and bare rears, yet the complaints have continued.

"I don't think having some guys taking their clothes off and hanging out seven days a week at Castro and Market Street is really what San Francisco is about. □

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Jindal: GOP needs to go back to basics

MICHELE SALCEDO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal says the Republican Party needs to go back to basics to attract the broad coalition of voters credited with putting President Barack Obama back in the White House.

Kindergarten basics.

"If we want people to like us, we have to like them first," Jindal said on Fox News Sunday.

Former Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez has a more nuts-and-bolts approach to bringing in some

of the largest and fastest growing groups of Americans: He's forming a super PAC to support Republican candidates who back comprehensive immigration reform, including legalizing the status of an estimated 11 million immigrants in the U.S. without authorization. The 2012 elections drove home trends that have been embedded for years in the fine print of birth and death rates, immigration statistics and census charts. Nonwhites made up 28 percent of the electorate this year, compared with 20 percent in 2000, with

Hispanics comprising much of that growth. Obama captured a commanding 80 percent of the growing ranks of nonwhite voters in 2012, just as he did in 2008. Republican Mitt Romney won 59 percent of non-Hispanic whites, and although he dominated among white men — outperforming 2008 nominee John McCain among that group — he couldn't win.

Republicans have spent much of the time since the election wrestling with ways to appeal beyond their base of white men and married women. □






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Twinkies likely to survive Hostess sale

TOM KRISHER
AP Business Writer
DETROIT (AP) — Twinkie lovers, relax. The tasty cream-filled golden spongecakes are likely to survive, even though their maker will be sold in bankruptcy court. Hostess Brands Inc., baker of Wonder Bread as well as Twinkies, Ding Dongs and Ho Ho's, will be in a New York bankruptcy courtroom Monday to start the process of selling itself. The company, weighed down by debt, management turmoil, rising labor costs and the changing tastes of America, decided on Friday that it no longer could make it through a conventional Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring. Instead, it's asking the court for permission to sell assets

and go out of business. But with high brand recognition and \$2.5 billion in revenue per year, other companies are interested in bidding for at least pieces of Hostess. Twinkies alone have brought in \$68 million in revenue so far this year, which would look good to another snack-maker. "There's a huge amount of goodwill with the commercial brand name," said John Pottow, a University of Michigan Law School professor who specializes in bankruptcy. "It's quite conceivable that they can sell the name and recipe for Twinkies to a company that wants to make them." Hostess has said it's received inquiries about buying parts of the company. But spokesman Lance

Ignon would not comment on analysts' reports that Thomasville, Georgia-based Flowers Foods Inc. and private equity food investment firm Metropoulos & Co. are likely suitors. Metropoulos owns Pabst Brewing Co., while Flowers Foods makes Nature's Own bread, Tastykake treats and other baked goods. Messages were left for spokesmen for both companies on Sunday. "We think there's a lot of value in the brands, and we'll certainly be trying to maximize value, both of the brands and the physical assets," Ignon said Sunday. He said it's possible some of Hostess' bakeries will never return to operation because the industry has too much bakery capacity. □



Curtis Smout stands in line with a stack of Twinkies at the Hostess Thrift Shop in Ogden, Utah.

(AP Photo/Kera Williams)

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Reporters Without Borders condemns Israeli strikes on media centers in Gaza

THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Reporters Without Borders has condemned Israeli missile attacks on two media centers in Gaza that wounded six Palestinian journalists Sunday and damaged the equipment of foreign media outlets. The attacks on the two high-rise buildings damaged offices of the Hamas TV station, Al Aqsa, and a Lebanese-based broadcaster, Al Quds TV, seen as sympathetic to the Islamists. Ger-

tion. He demanded an investigation into the circumstances of the raid. "Even though the outlets targeted are linked to Hamas, it does not legitimize the attacks," he said. "Attacks against civilian targets constitute war crimes." The Israeli military said the strikes targeted Hamas communications equipment on the buildings' rooftops and accused the group of using journalists as "human

had left the Shawa building about an hour before the Israeli planes delivered the strike. RT's office was damaged, so the crew will move to a less-affected floor of the center." Germany's public broadcaster ARD said its Gaza office was hit. "Thanks God, nobody was injured," said correspondent Markus Rosch in a blog entry on the broadcaster's website. "At night, I went to bed hoping for a ceasefire. But



Smoke billows as debris flies from the explosion at the local Al-Aqsa TV station in Gaza City, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012. Israeli aircraft fired missiles at two media centers in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, the Israeli military said, as the country warned it was widening its range of targets to go after military commanders of the territory's Hamas rulers.

many's public broadcaster ARD; Russia Today, a state TV network that broadcasts in English; and Sky News Arabia said they lost equipment in the attacks. A Gaza press association said six Palestinian journalists were wounded, including one who lost a leg. Christophe Deloire, the director of Reporters Without Borders' international headquarters in Paris, called the attacks unjustified and a threat to freedom of informa-

shields." Lt. Col. Avital Leibovich, an Israeli military spokeswoman, urged journalists to stay clear of Hamas bases and facilities. In Moscow, Russia Today, a state TV network that broadcasts in English, reported that the office of its Arabic-language channel, Rusiya Al-Yaum, was heavily damaged in the strike but none of the crew was injured. "Fortunately for them, they

in the morning it went off again on both sides. Our ARD office in Gaza was also hit." Sky News Arabia issued a statement condemning the attacks and saying they caused extensive damage to its property and "considerable and unacceptable distress to our staff." Sky News Arabia is a joint venture between BSkyB in Britain and the Abu Dhabi Investment Corp, based in Abu Dhabi. □

(AP Photo/Yaseer Qudih)

Large rally protests Spain's health care austerity plans

HAROLD HECKLE
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spaniards angered by austerity measures, including budget cuts and plans to partly privatize some of their country's cherished national health service, held a rally Sunday in downtown Madrid. About 10,000 people, including health workers dressed in clinical white and blue, marched from four large hospitals on the outskirts of Madrid to central Puerta del Sol square behind banners saying, "Our public health service is not for sale, it's to be defended."

Some protesters said they were outraged by Madrid regional government

plans to convert a large hospital specializing in rare and infectious diseases into an old people's home and then sell it. "Our hospital, Carlos III, is a medical reference point. We treat highly infectious illnesses. We serve a lot of patients. Yet they still want to get rid of it," said nurse Natalia Fernandez, 34. Javier Fernandez-Laquetty, Madrid councilor in charge of the region's health care, said the measures being implemented seek to achieve greater efficiency and guarantee that tax-payers survive the crisis with first-class hospitals. "The measures are to ensure, responsibly, that we continue to have a high quality universal public health service, open to all," he said. □

Iran holds Syria conference

NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran held Sunday a conference to reconcile Syria's government with opposition factions and end the country's civil war, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The report said the one-day meeting of some 200 opposition members and Syria's National Reconciliation Minister Ali Haidar could be a step toward a future, broad-based opposition gathering, although it did not say if any of Syria's major rebel or exile groups had attended. Most of those groups distrust Iran, a key ally of their adversary President Bashar Assad.

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi warned at the opening of the meeting that providing opposition groups with heavy arms could put the entire

region at risk of "organized terrorism."

He said that arming Assad's opponents, as Damascus accuses Qatar and Saudi Arabia of doing, violates international law and principles of non-intervention in countries' domestic affairs. Salehi reiterated Iran's traditional stance on Syria, blaming "foreign intervention and irresponsible armed groups" for the country's uprising. He said Iran supports peaceful solutions to end the crisis.

The conference is seen as a reaction to last week's meeting in Qatar in which opposition groups formed an umbrella coalition to topple Assad. In August, Iran held a previous conference on the Syria conflict, attended by representatives of 30 countries. The Islamic Republic has supported Assad in the 20-month uprising, repeatedly accusing the West and Israel of instigating the conflicts. □

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Thousands march for abortion rights in Ireland

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — About 10,000 people marched through Dublin this weekend and observed a minute's silence in memory of the Indian dentist who died of blood poisoning in an Irish hospital after being denied an abortion.

Marchers, many of them mothers and daughters walking side by side, chanted "Never again!" and held pictures of Savita Halappanavar as they paraded across the city to stage a nighttime candlelit vigil outside the office of Prime Minister Enda Kenny.

The 31-year-old, who was 17 weeks pregnant with her first child, died Oct. 28 one week after being hospitalized with severe pain at the start of a miscarriage. Her death, made public by her husband this week, has highlighted Ireland's long struggle to come to grips with abortion.

The case illustrates a 20-year-old confusion in



Irish women and a girl light candles in memory of Savita Halappanavar during an abortion rights rally outside Ireland's government headquarters in Dublin. (AP Photo/Shawn Pogatchnik)

abortion law in Ireland, where the practice is outlawed in the constitution. A 1992 Supreme Court ruling decreed that abortions should be legal to save the life of the woman, including if she makes credible threats to commit suicide if denied one. But successive governments have refused to pass legislation spelling out the rules governing that general prin-

ciple, leaving the decision up to individual doctors in an environment of secrecy. Kenny's government says it needs to await the findings of two investigations into Halappanavar's death before taking any action. It has declined to say if it will pass legislation to make the 1992 judgment the clear-cut, detailed law of the land. Many doctors say they fear being targeted

by lawsuits or protests — or even charged with murder — if they perform an abortion to safeguard a pregnant woman's life. Speakers from socialist parties, women's groups and abortion rights activists addressed Saturday's crowd from atop a flat-bed truck. They decried the fact that two decades had passed without any political decision to define when hospi-

tals could, and could not, perform abortions. "Twenty years is far too long. Ignoring women's rights is wrong!" the crowd chanted. About 1,000 people staged a more prayer-oriented rally in the western city of Galway, where the Halappavanars settled in 2008. Some placed candles spelling SAVITA on the pavement in Galway's central Eyre Square. □

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G

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G

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late show: 11:30
NEW PG-13

THE MASTER
daily: 5:30 8:30
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Mumbai streets packed for Hindu extremist's funeral

RAJESH SHAH
Associated Press

MUMBAI, India (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of grieving supporters thronged the streets of Mumbai on Sunday for the funeral of Bal Thackeray, a Hindu extremist leader linked to waves of mob violence against Muslims and migrant workers in India.

Nearly 20,000 policemen were on hand because of the violent history of the group. The mourners, however, remained calm and orderly as the body of Thackeray was cremated at Shivaji park where he had made political debut by addressing his first public rally 46 years ago.

His son and successor, Uddhav Thackeray, lit the funeral pyre amid chants of "Thackeray is immortal" by the supporters, some of whom wept.

Top Indian politicians, industrialists and Bollywood stars including L.K. Advani, Sharad Pawar, Anil Ambani and Amitabh Bachchan, earlier placed floral wreathes aside Thackeray's body, which was wearing his trademark dark sunglasses.

Thackeray, an 86-year-old powerful, rabble-rousing orator for Shiv Sena — which means Shiva's Army — died on Saturday following a cardio-respiratory arrest. He had been ill for several weeks.

His body, wrapped in India's national flag, was carried through the city on a trailer-truck. Policemen carried his body to the cremation site at the end of a daylong funeral procession as the Maharashtra state government, headed by the governing Congress party, announced state funeral for him.

Life in Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital came to a halt as people voluntarily closed shops and businesses and kept taxis and auto-rickshaws off the roads. However, state-run buses and trains plied to help Thackeray's supporters to attend his cremation. Indian media reports said more than 1.5 million people attended his funeral procession. There were no official estimates of the mourners.



Indian mourners gather beside a truck carrying the body of Hindu hardline Shiv Sena party leader Bal Thackeray during his funeral in Mumbai, India, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012. Thackeray died Saturday after an illness of several weeks. He was 86.

(AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade)

"Mumbai has not seen a congregation like this in the past 50 years," said Kumar Ketkar, editor of a local daily and a respected political commentator.

Thackeray's Sena is among the most xenophobic of India's Hindu right-wing political parties and held power in Mumbai from 1995 to 2000. His supporters often called him Hindu Hriday Samrat or emperor of Hindu hearts. In 1992, members of Hindu right-wing groups, including the Sena and the Bharatiya Janata Party, were instrumental in destroying a 16th century mosque in north India that they said was the birthplace of the Hindu god Rama, and Thackeray was blamed for the violence and rioting that followed. In Mumbai alone, nearly 1,000 people were killed. His extreme regional and religious parochialism led him to advocate Hindu suicide bombers and planting bombs in Muslim neighborhoods to "protect the nation and all Hindus."

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SE Asia to ask China to start talks over islands

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) —

Southeast Asian leaders decided Sunday to ask China to start formal talks "as soon as possible" on crafting a legally binding accord aimed at preventing an outbreak of violence in disputed South China Sea territories, a top diplomat said.

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations made the decision during their annual summit in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan said.

The South China Sea territorial disputes, which many fear could spark Asia's next war, have overshadowed discussions at the summit, where the top agenda items included human rights and expanding an Asian free-trade area.

Four countries in the 10-member ASEAN — Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam — have been locked in long-unresolved territorial rifts with China and Taiwan in the resource-rich waters, where a bulk of the world's oil and cargo passes. Since Chinese and Vietnamese naval forces engaged in deadly clashes in the re-

gion in the 1970s, the disputes have settled into an uneasy standoff. But fresh territorial spats involving China, Vietnam and the Philippines starting last year have set off calls for ASEAN and China to turn a nonaggression accord they signed in 2002 to a stronger, legally-binding "code of conduct" aimed at discouraging aggres-

sive acts that could lead to dangerous confrontations or accidental clashes in the busy region.

ASEAN member countries have submitted features they each want to see in such an accord and were

now ready to sit as a bloc to discuss with China how the agreement could be drafted. The crucial talks could start immediately, even right after the Cambodia summit, according to Surin. □



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen delivers his opening remarks for the 21st Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012.

(AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

Egypt:

New Coptic pope enthroned

CAIRO (AP) — The new pope of Egypt's Orthodox Coptic church was enthroned on Sunday in an elaborate ceremony lasting nearly four hours, attended by the nation's Muslim prime minister and a host of Cabinet ministers and politicians.

Pope Tawadros II, 60, was elected Nov. 4, but the official enthronement ceremony was held Sunday at the Coptic cathedral in Cairo. He replaced Shenouda III, who died in March after leading the ancient church for 40 years.

The packed cathedral repeatedly erupted into applause as the ceremony progressed. The ceremony's climax came when the papal crown was placed



Bishop Bakhomious, the acting head of the Coptic Church, places a Bible on the head of soon-to-be Pope Tawadros II, enthroning the new pope in the Coptic Cathedral in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012.

(AP Photo/Roger Anis)

on Tawadros' head before he sat on the throne of St. Mark, the Coptic church's founding saint. Tawadros did not address the televised ceremony, but had

a brief speech read on his behalf by one of the church's leaders in which he pledged to work for the good of Egypt, with its Muslims and Christians alike. □



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Colombia peace talks:

Top negotiators Marquez, De la Calle to meet in Havana

VIVIAN SEQUERA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

The two chief negotiators didn't shake hands. They didn't even look at each other as they formally inaugurated talks to end Colombia's stubborn five-decade-old conflict in Norway last month.

On Monday, the rebel former seminarian known as Ivan Marquez and government representative Humberto de la Calle, a sage veteran of Colombian politics, will sit down in Havana to negotiate in earnest.

The two have little in common other than eyeglasses, a slight paunch and a previous failed attempt to talk peace.



Humberto de la Calle, head of Colombia's peace negotiation team, speaks to journalists before embarking to Havana for a round of talks with rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, at the military airport in Bogota, Colombia, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012.

(AP Photo/William Fernando Martinez)

"The men sitting down at this table are enemies. They are trying to become friends," said Horacio Serpa, who was Colombia's interior minister during the mid-1990s when De la Calle was vice president.

Marquez and De la Calle offered very different views of reality in Oslo that made many wonder whether this fourth attempt at peace since the 1980s can succeed.

The No. 2 commander in the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia insisted on radical change: Take control of the nation's oil and mineral wealth from multinationals and give it to the people.

De la Calle said Colom-

bia's economic model is not subject to negotiation. The government he represents, led by President Juan Manuel Santos, seeks greater foreign investment in mining industries while also promising to return millions or acres of stolen land to displaced peasants.

Marquez's 9,000-strong insurgency, meanwhile, is being asked as a condition of peace to help end the cocaine trade that has funded its struggle. Colombians also want it to account for the dozens of ransom kidnap victims who have disappeared in its custody and other non-combatants it is accused of killing.

Neither side has illusions

about the difficulties. But there is an agenda, reached in seven months of secret talks, also in Havana. First up is land reform, the heart of the conflict.

The 66-year-old De la Calle is best known for quitting as vice president in 1996 after his boss, President Ernesto Samper, was accused of winning the presidency with \$6 million in contributions from the Cali cocaine cartel. De la Calle is from Manabarez, a coffee-growing town in Caldas state.

Marquez, 57, hails from Florencia, the capital of the southern state of Caqueta that has long been a bastion of the rebel movement known by its Spanish initials FARC. □

Another US military serviceman arrested on Okinawa

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese police arrested a U.S. Marine on Sunday on suspicion of trespassing on the southern island of Okinawa amid anger over military crimes and demands for stricter regulations for U.S. troops. The incident, the second after the U.S. mili-

tary had stepped up disciplinary steps last month, immediately triggered harsh reaction from the Okinawa government. Police said 1st Lt. Tomas Chanquet of the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma allegedly sneaked into a room through an unlocked door and slept until spotted by a resident who

called police. Sunday's arrest was especially inflammatory on Okinawa, where the Emperor Akihito was visiting to attend a fisheries event. "I'm too shocked to say anything. It's utterly ridiculous and extremely regrettable," Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima told reporters. "I must lodge a strong protest to both the

Japanese and U.S. governments. They must do something more significant." Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda is expected to raise the issue during talks Tuesday with President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the summit of Southeast Asian countries in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Kyodo News agency reported. An

alleged rape by two Navy sailors last month enraged Okinawans and reignited deep-rooted anti-base sentiment on the island, home to more than half the 52,000 U.S. troops in Japan. The case led to a curfew on all troops in Japan, but two weeks later a U.S. airman allegedly assaulted a teenager. □

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Divi Resorts Aruba International Beach Tennis Event: Sunday Sees Amazing Action Mixing Sun And Fun!

The Divi Resorts Aruba International Beach Tennis Event is running towards a close with the action in the sand of Eagle Beach becoming more and more fierce. The Pro's are playing for money, so there is an added incentive to win. The Italian men, the Brazilian ladies and the Venezuelans are doing great, gearing up towards semi finals and finals. But there are still a few local players in the field: Marieke Buuts and Bertrand Coulet have both earned money! This love match can go and take it easy for a while! Marieke is playing the single final on Monday, while she is still playing for the doubles title together with Julie Labrit from St. Maarten. Let's see if this strong and motivated team can take on the power of the Brazilian girls! Bertrand and Cado de Lanooy formed a great alliance, but they were no match for the Italian play-



ers in the quarter finals. Alas, but they are among the best in the world, so there is nothing to be sad



Kock and Scholliers from Aruba won the title as well. Still to be played at the moment this paper went to press were Jossy Mansur and Hylke Nijhuis - they will meet either Mora/Useleti, Lovera/Sigouyd, or Falcoa/Pereira in their route to the top! What a great tournament: Make sure to check out the Aruba Today Newspaper tomorrow for more results! □

about. In the amateur division the sun is shining: Dorilis Werleman and Aat Hoek won the title in the

Advanced mix category, and Maureen and Marco de Mooij are the Fun Mix champions. Fun Ladies



Sinterklaas Arrives on Aruba!



ORANJESTAD- Sinterklaas and his Zwarte Piets arrived on Aruba, Sunday, November 18, 2012, via boat to greet all of the islands' good boys and girls and to officially begin spreading Holiday Cheer! Sinterklaas and his Zwarte Piets will spend the next few weeks on Aruba seeing who has been naughty and who has been nice, and between now and December 5th, rewarding those on the 'nice' list with treats, and those on the 'naughty' list with lumps of coal!

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PALM BEACH – The Casino at the Radisson is happy to report that three major jackpots are at this time available for grabs, for those coming in the play, their favorite slots or table games. A total of \$60,448.30 has now accumulated for the Caribbean Stud Poker Progressive Jackpot. Additionally, a whopping \$24,741.05, is now available for a lucky winner who buys a chance on the Bingo Pro-

gressive Jackpot any Saturday or Sunday, while playing high-stake bingo. And as if that is not enough the Bad Beat Poker Jackpot stands at \$42,660.57, ready to shower a lucky poker player with cash. The casino at the Radisson runs daily exciting promotions designed to entertain and reward patrons such as Free Bingo on Monday, Casino Bonanza on Tuesday, a Spin to Win weekend slot

tournament, Mystery Jackpots, Poker Promotions, Raffles for Free Plays and weekend activities such as Happy Hour and Bingo. Both table and slot players visiting the Casino at the Radisson are invited to join the Winners' Circle Players Club and earn Customer Rewards towards unique promotional items, credits for table and slot play and credit towards hotel services. □

At Celler 23:

Aruba Trading Company hosts Beaujolais Nouveau 2012 party!

ORANJESTAD– The Beaujolais Nouveau 2012 arrived late last week at Celler 23 in a different way. The wine appeared to be within a Marlon Tjung painting, and then the art work came to life in a small theatrical production. Businessman and wine lover Stephen Daal had the honor of opening this year's first bottle.

Beaujolais Nouveau is a red wine made from Gamay grapes produced in the Beaujolais region of France. It is the most popular 'vin de primeur' - intended for immediate drinking and not for keeping - bottled only 6-8 weeks



after harvest before being sold on the third Thursday of November each year. For more than 20 years, Aruba Trading Company, distributor of Georges Duboeuf wines, which include Beaujolais Nouveau, has hosted a fabulous party for the official uncorking of

the first Beaujolais Nouveau on the island. Once again there was a big celebration at Celler 23, a historic spot that for years was known as Chez Mathilde, where they had celebrated Beaujolais Nouveau day for many years. It should be mentioned Beaujolais Nou-



veau is produced in limited quantity. During the night, chef Urvin Croes of White Modern Cuisine cooked live on the pavilion di Celler 23, his culinary selections paired nicely with hors d'oeuvres made special to compliment the "Beaujolais Nou-

veau 2012" to the delight of everyone. The highlight of night was the raffle, hosted by Mrs. Dilma Arends for a magnum Beaujolais Nouveau 2012, courtesy of Aruba Trading Company, where the proceeds go directly to the Aruba Autism Foundation. □



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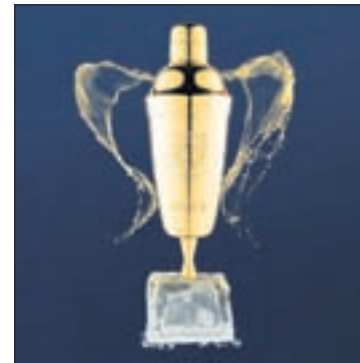
Bols Around the World 2013 kicks off December 1st!

Oranjestad -- Michael van den Berg, General Manager Pepia-Est N.V., Aruba, Bonaire & Curacao reports that Bols, the famous Dutch licquor-maker, is once again gearing up for its wildly popular international bartending competition. Bols around the World 2013 will kick off its seventh edition on December 1st

2012, after which professional bartenders in Aruba will be invited to go to the Bols web site and upload an original drink recipe. If this year's competition was any indication, contestants can expect a spectacular audiovisual event, where competitive bartending reaches a new level. In the coming six months

bartenders from 60 countries will be competing in three online heats to win a coveted place at the Global Final in Amsterdam. Only 20 bartenders will make it to Amsterdam for the semi-finals on the 2nd – 6th of May, of which only 12 will go head to head at the Grand Final on the 7th of May. They will be judged by a prestigious panel made out of the most admired names in the indus-

try. One spot in the finals (and four spots in the semi-finals) will be reserved for a member of the Young Talent Program, a unique program that gives less experienced bartenders aged 21 and under the chance to compete head to head with the world's best bartenders. To help them reach this level of expertise, they will receive coaching from the Bols Bartending Academy throughout the



competition. The contest presents a great opportunity for all hospitality and culinary school students who are starting their bartender career. □



InselAir introduces its 16th destination, Maracaibo, Venezuela!

ORANJESTAD- InselAir is proud to announce its expansion of destinations within its network with the 16th destination to Maracaibo, Venezuela! Starting December 14th, 2012 InselAir will be operating 3 weekly flights between Hato International Airport, Curaçao and La Chinita International Airport, Maracaibo, Venezuela.

As of December 14th, InselAir destinations Aruba and Bonaire will have great connections via Curaçao to Maracaibo and vice versa. Maracaibo is the capital of Zulia state in western Venezuela, and is the second largest city in the country after Caracas. It has more than 5 million people and it's famous for its typical music, big shopping malls, beautiful parks and 'La Virigin de la Chinita'. It is called "La Primera Ciudad de Venezuela" (The Most Important Venezuelan City) because of its development. InselAir will operate the route with a MD-80 aircraft, with assigned seating, one carry-

on, first checked bag free (terms and conditions apply) and great customer service. To celebrate this 16th destination with our loyal customers we are offering very special introduction round trip rates out of Curacao, Aruba and Bonaire to Maracaibo starting at ANG. 20, 00 for Curacao, AWG. 40, 00 out of Aruba and USD. 20, 00 out of Bonaire. This special introduction fare is excluding departure tax from Curacao, Aruba and Maracaibo and is valid from December 14th, 2012 till March 31st, 2013 □ with limited seats, according to J. Lippinkhof, Chief Commercial Officer. With this destination InselAir is implementing what it has promise to its passengers. Maracaibo is just the beginning of the new era where InselAir Aruba will also start offering its splendid services to much more passengers than millions we have been transporting during the past 6 years. We will make the people proud of their only national carrier InselAir. □

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Amazonia Churrascaria Gearing Up for a Busy Holiday Season

PALM BEACH – Amazonia Churrascaria just hoisted a brand new flag in front of its Palm Beach location, a 3 x 4.5 meter giant which is visible from a great distance, proudly advertising the epicurean establishment, Aruba's first and original Brazilian style steakhouse.

The flag was raised by Serapio Werleman, the restaurant's senior waiter, and Salvador Encarnacion the carver with the brightest smile on the island. They both received the honor in appreciation of their ongoing efforts to secure high-guest-satisfaction scores

during the evening hours and for their help with small fixes and repairs during the day!

With the holiday season just around the corner, Amazonia Churrascaria will entertain colleagues, family members and friends looking to celebrate the holi-



days together. Patrons may choose between a lunch or dinner package that will satisfy everyone, from kids to adults, and from the biggest meat lovers to strict vegetarians. All packages include unlimited trips to the extravagant 50-item fresh seasonal salad bar, as well as unlimited visits from the roaming gauchos, who serve up 15 different cuts of fire-roasted beef, pork, lamb and chicken. All of this accompanied by the restaurant's popular side dishes and sauces,

and topped off with a special dessert. Local holiday favorites, including entire Christmas Ham, Turkey or Christmas Ayaca's, are also available for an additional charge.

Make sure you reserve your holiday celebration at Amazonia in advance. For more information or reservations, please contact Sales & Marketing Coordinator Julie Heward-Geerman at 586-4444, or send an email to Julie@amazonia-aruba.com □



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Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan (10) drives to the basket against Orlando Magic forward Josh McRoberts (17) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Toronto, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012.

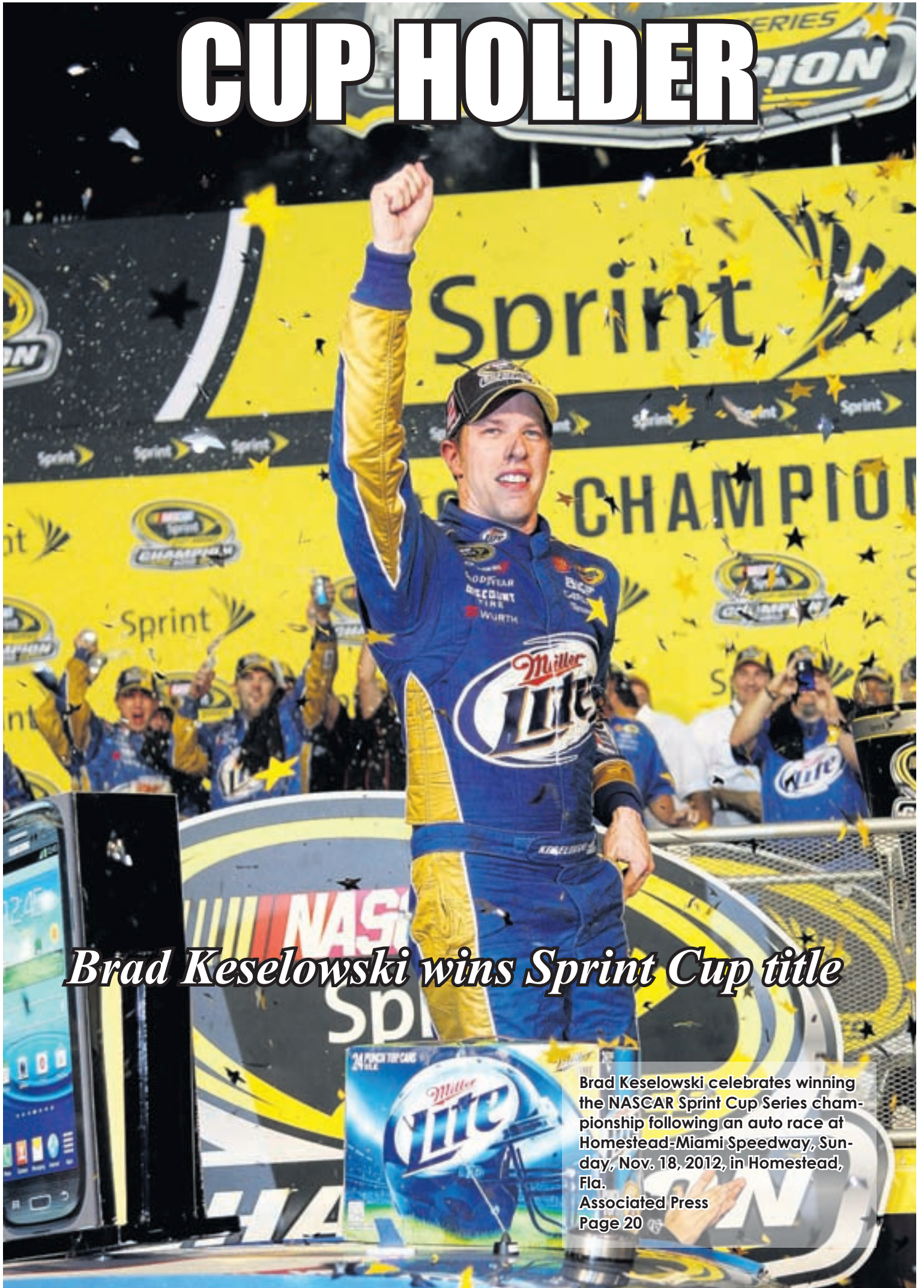
Associated Press

DeRozan scores 20 as Raptors beat Magic 97-86

TORONTO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan scored 20 points, Amir Johnson had 14 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and the Toronto Raptors beat the slumping Orlando Magic 97-86 on Sunday. Andrea Bargnani had 17 points, Linas Kleiza scored 10 of his 12 points in the fourth and Jose Calderon had a season-high 18 assists for the Raptors, who had lost six of their previous seven home meetings with Orlando. Glen Davis led the Magic with 16 points and 12 rebounds, E'Twan Moore scored 16 points and Arron Afflalo had 15. Nikola Vucevic had 12 points and six rebounds, ending his streak of three straight double-doubles. Orlando snapped a five-game losing streak and picked up its first road victory of the season by beating Detroit on Friday, but failed to collect back-to-back wins for the first time since beating Denver and Phoenix in the first two games of the season.

Continued on Page 20

CUP HOLDER



Brad Keselowski wins Sprint Cup title

Brad Keselowski celebrates winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship following an auto race at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012, in Homestead, Fla.
Associated Press
Page 20



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Choi wins final LPGA Tour event of the year

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NAPLES, Florida (AP) — U.S. Women's Open champion Na Yeon Choi won the Titleholders on Sunday to turn a great season into her best one yet.

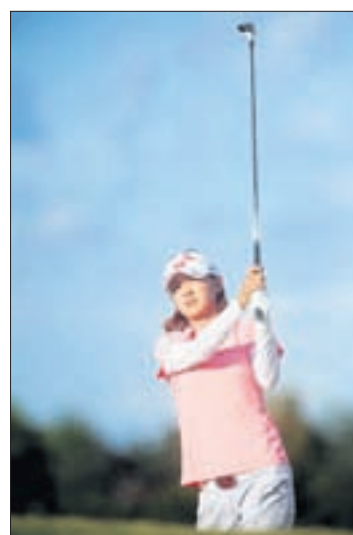
Locked in a battle with So Yeon Ryu along the back nine, Choi pulled away with a wedge that had to hit a tiny spot on an elevated green with three tiers. It came off perfectly, spun to 3 feet for birdie and

Choi took it from there. She closed with two pars for a 2-under 70 and a two-shot victory.

The 25-year-old from South Korea won for the second time this year, and she captured the two biggest paychecks on the LPGA Tour. She won \$500,000 at the Titleholders, pushing her season earnings to a career-best \$1.9 million.

Ryu, honored this week as the LPGA Rookie of the Year, hit 3-wood into about

25 feet for a two-putt birdie on the 13th to tie for the lead. But on the next hole, she didn't account for the wind making her 30-foot birdie putt faster than it looked. The putt went some 6 feet by the hole, and a three-putt bogey cost her a share of the lead. She never caught up. Brittany Lincicome also closed with a 70 at The TwinEagles Club for finish alone in third. Karrie Webb had a 69 to finish another shot behind.



Na Yeon Choi, of South Korea, fires from the fairway on the 18th hole during the LPGA Titleholders golf tournament, Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012, in Naples, Fla.
Associated Press

Inbee Park was never in the hunt, though she still felt plenty of pressure in the final LPGA Tour event of the year. She needed to make sure she didn't stumble in the final round to capture the Vare Trophy for the lowest scoring average, and she handled that with ease. Park had a 70, while Stacy Lewis had a 74. Lewis is the first American since 1994 to be LPGA Player of the Year. Park took the Vare Trophy and money title, the only woman to earn more than \$2 million this year. Sunday, however, belonged to Choi. "I'm really happy with how I played this season," Choi said. "I won my first major and even this tournament is very big for me. I think I can have even bigger expectations now and think I deserve it." She

is becoming known as "Big Apple" because of her initials — NYC — and she sure knows how to pick the right fruit when it comes to prize money. Choi showed she had the mettle to win big events with her first major this summer at Blackwolf Run in the U.S. Women's Open, the biggest purse in women's golf. And she finished off the year with a solid putting stroke in the final round, and a delicate touch with a wedge on the reachable par-4 16th.

She wanted to go for the green, a risky play if she didn't pull it off. Her caddy, Jason Hamilton, suggested a 3-wood to the left side for the best angle into the green, and Choi took it from there. Ryu was on the right side of the fairway, and her pitch shot up two tiers didn't quite clear the last ridge and rolled off the green. "My putting wasn't really great," Ryu said. "Na Yeon is a great player, and I'm just a rookie, just starting this season. It was quite tough. Na Yeon was great." It capped off another banner year for South Koreans. They won three of the four majors and finished 1-2 on the money list. The timing couldn't have been better for Choi. Her mother came over to help her buy a house in Orlando, and this was the first time she saw her daughter win outside South Korea. And with a \$500,000 check, Choi smiled and said, "I think I can buy bigger than I thought." □

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Ingrid Telescu

From Ontario Canada, it is her second visit to the island, she loves the local beaches and her favorite beach is Arashi beach, she is on vacation with her mother.



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NFL Capsules

Schaub rallies Texans past Jaguars, 43-37

HOUSTON (AP) — Andre Johnson caught a screen pass from Matt Schaub and ran 48 yards for the winning touchdown in overtime as the Houston Texans rallied to beat Jacksonville 43-37 on Sunday.

Schaub threw a career-high five touchdown passes, completed a franchise-record 43 passes and finished with 527 yards passing, second most in NFL history. Warren Moon also threw for 527 yards for the Houston Oilers in December 1990 against Kansas City.

Norm Van Brocklin holds the record with 554 for the Rams in 1951.

Johnson caught 14 passes for 273 yards, both career highs. The Texans (9-1) won an overtime game for the first time at Reliant Stadium. Chad Henne threw a career-high four touchdown passes in relief of injured Blaine Gabbert for the Jaguars (1-9). Rookie Justin Blackmon had 236 yards receiving.

FALCONS 23, CARDINALS 19

ATLANTA (AP) — Matt Ryan overcame a career-worst five interceptions, guiding Atlanta to its only offensive touchdown in the fourth quarter in a sloppy win. The Falcons (9-1) turned it over a total of six times, but Michael Turner scored on a 1-yard run with 6:40 remaining to give Atlanta its first lead of the game. Ryan set up the score with four completions for 64 yards, including a 9-yarder to Tony Gonzalez on third-and-5 at the Arizona 10.

Coming off a bye, Arizona (4-6) lost its sixth straight game. The Cardinals tried to bolster their anemic of-

fense by switching quarterbacks, replacing John Skelton with rookie Ryan Lindley, but Larry Fitzgerald couldn't hang on to a fourth-down pass after Ryan's fifth pick.

PACKERS 24, LIONS 20

DETROIT (AP) — Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes, including a 22-yarder to Randall Cobb with 1:55 left to lift Green Bay.

Mason Crosby made a 39-yard field goal with 19 seconds to go after missing two field goals earlier in the game. Matthew Stafford couldn't put the Lions ahead on either of their last two drives in a game he'd like to forget.

Stafford threw two interceptions — one of which was returned 72 yards by Green Bay safety M.D. Jennings for a go-ahead score in the third quarter — and lost a fumble. Green Bay (7-3) has won five straight and Detroit (4-6) has dropped two in a row.

COWBOYS 23, BROWNS 20 OT

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dan Bailey kicked a 38-yard field goal in overtime and Dallas overcame a critical fumble by Tony Romo that sparked a wild ending. Bailey's winning kick with 6:07 remaining in OT came after both teams punted once in the first overtime game at Cowboys Stadium. Bailey hit a tying 32-yard field goal with 2 seconds left in regulation. Dallas (5-5) rallied from a 13-0 halftime deficit and went ahead 17-13 on Romo's 28-yard pass to Dez Bryant.

A fumble by Browns rookie Brandon Weeden on a sack appeared to put the

Cowboys in control, but Romo gave it right back with a fumble on another sack.

The Cowboys made one goal-line stand in the final minutes, but the Browns got another chance and went ahead 20-17 on Weeden's 17-yard pass to Benjamin Watson. □



Houston Texans wide receiver Andre Johnson scores the winning touchdown against the Jacksonville Jaguars in overtime of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012, in Houston. The Texans won 43-37. Associated Press

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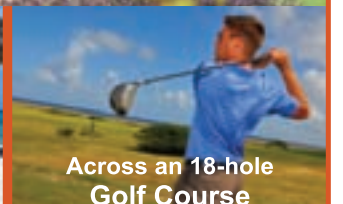
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Brad Keselowski, Penske Racing win Sprint Cup title

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

HOMESTEAD, Florida (AP)

— Brad Keselowski beat five-time champion Jimmie Johnson at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Sunday to deliver the first NASCAR Sprint Cup championship to Penske Racing.

It's a trophy that had eluded Roger Penske since he first entered NASCAR in 1972. Although his motorsports organization is considered the gold standard of IndyCar racing — 15 Indianapolis 500 wins — and his empire has made Penske one of the most successful businessmen in America, his NASCAR team operation was always just average.

Then came Keselowski, the blue collar, Twitter-loving, Michigan native who convinced "The Captain" his NASCAR team could be a winner, too.

"Always, throughout my whole life I've been told I'm not big enough, not



Brad Keselowski celebrates after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship following an auto race at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012, in Homestead, Fla.

Associated Press

fast enough, not strong enough and I don't have what it takes," Keselowski said from the championship stage. "I've used that as a chip on my shoulder to carry me through my whole career. It took until this year for me to realize that that was right, man, they were

right.

"I'm not big enough, fast enough, strong enough. No person is. Only a team can do that."

Although Penske is considered the gold standard of open-wheel racing — 15 Indianapolis 500 wins — and his empire has made Penske one of the most successful businessmen in America, his NASCAR team has always been just average.

Then came Keselowski, the blue collar, Twitter-loving, Michigan native who visited Penske in 2008 convinced the NASCAR team could win, too.

Three years later, they hoisted the Sprint Cup trophy together at Homestead-Miami Speedway following Keselowski's 15th-place finish Sunday.

"It's all about the people in our organization and obviously Brad coming on our board three years ago, and we set a plan and we stuck to it," the 75-year-old Penske said. "To win this championship is amazing." Keselowski needed 125 starts to win his first championship, the fewest starts since four-time champion Jeff Gordon won his first title in 93 starts in 1995.

Keselowski also won a second-tier Nationwide title in 2010, his first season with Penske and the owner's first official NASCAR championship.

Gordon, who avoided sus-

pension this week but was fined \$100,000 by NASCAR for intentionally wrecking Clint Bowyer last week at Phoenix, overcame the controversy to win the race in a 20th anniversary celebration for sponsor Dupont and Hendrick Motorsports. Gordon beat Bowyer for his first victory at Homestead, which leaves Kentucky as the only active NASCAR track where he's yet to win. And Bowyer's second-place finish moved him to a career-best second in the final standings. Third-place went to Ryan Newman, who got his break in NASCAR with Penske and spent seven seasons driving for the owner.

"He deserves this probably as much as anybody else, if not more because of what he's done for motor racing in general, NASCAR, his dedication to all forms of race cars is probably more than anybody else in the history of auto racing," Newman said. "I know this is probably one of the sweetest moments in his racing career."

Keselowski started the race up 20 points on Johnson, who blew a tire and crashed last week at Phoenix to give Keselowski a nice cushion and needing only to finish 15th or higher in the finale to wrap up his first championship. But the Penske team took nothing for granted — not after Will Power crashed in the

IndyCar finale to blow a 17-point lead and lose the championship.

And this one got tight, too, especially when Keselowski ran out of gas on pit road during green flag pit stops. It put him a lap down with Johnson leading, and Keselowski and crew chief Paul Wolfe frantically tried to figure out how dire the situation had become.

Wolfe crunched the numbers, figuring the No. 2 Dodge would cycle out in the mid-20s, a lap down from the leaders.

"I know the scenario, and it's not good," Keselowski said.

But minutes later, Johnson went to pit road for his own stop and pulled away with a missing lug nut. NASCAR flagged the Hendrick Motorsports team and Johnson was forced back to pit road for another stop.

The Penske team was unsure if Keselowski wanted to know what was going on with Johnson.

"I've got a big picture story if you want to hear it," a team member radioed, then informed Keselowski that Johnson had to pit again.

"Ten-four. Thank you for telling me. We're back in the game. I got it," he said.

It got worse for Johnson from there. He broke a rear end gear in his Chevrolet and went to the garage with 40 laps to go, essentially clinching the championship for Keselowski.

"It all unraveled pretty quick," Johnson conceded.

No longer needing to save fuel, and no longer needing to play it conservatively, he waived off Wolfe's playbook.

"If he's in the garage, let's race," Keselowski said.

That's been Keselowski's attitude since he burst onto the NASCAR scene. He first caught attention as a brash driver for Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s Nationwide Series team, and he was unapologetic for his aggressive driving and his refusal to back down in long-running feuds with established stars Denny Hamlin and Carl Edwards. □

Raptors Magic

J.J. Redick, who led the Magic with a season-high 23 points Friday, did not play because of an illness. DeQuan Jones took his place in the starting lineup. After being outscored 28-18 in the third quarter, surrendering an eight-point lead in the process, the Raptors rebounded in the fourth, with back-to-back 3-pointers by Kleiza and Johnson turning a one-point deficit into a 79-74 lead with 6:55 left to play.

Toronto pulled away from there, with Johnson scoring a turnaround hook shot and draining a pair of free throws, Bargnani hitting consecutive jumpers and Calderon finding DeRozan for a powerful alley-oop dunk with 4:00 remaining that gave the Raptors an 89-78 lead.

DeRozan scored 11 points in the first and the Raptors used a 10-2 run and four 3-pointers to open a 32-22 lead after one quarter.

The Magic got eight points and five rebounds from



Toronto Raptors forward Andrea Bargnani (7) shoots between Orlando Magic forward Glen Davis (11) and guard Jameer Nelson (14) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Toronto, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012.

Associated Press

Davis in the second, but Orlando trailed 49-41 at the half.

Afflalo scored four points as Orlando opened the third with an 8-2 run, cutting it to 51-49. A driving layup by Nelson with 1:13 left gave the Magic a 67-66 lead, their first since scoring the game's opening basket. Nelson scored six points in the third, all of them in the final 1:49, as the Magic took a 69-67 lead into the fourth. □

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McLaren's Hamilton wins U.S. Grand Prix in Austin

JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A bold passing maneuver at the end of a long straightway slipped Lewis Hamilton past Sebastian Vettel, and the McLaren driver went on to win the U.S. Grand Prix on Sunday in the first Formula One race on American soil since 2007.

The drivers' championship will be settled next week in Sao Paulo, Brazil, after Red Bull's Vettel finished second and Ferrari's Fernando Alonso third.

Vettel started the race in the pole position and led the first 41 laps before Hamilton caught him, sneaking past Vettel just before they reached the tight corner on turn No. 12 at the Circuit of the Americas.

Hamilton started in the No. 2 position and pushed Vettel at every opportunity. Vettel, the defending two-time Formula One champion, remained slightly ahead of Ferrari's Alonso in the drivers' championship, meaning the title will come down to the final race of the season.

Hamilton, who won the last U.S. Grand Prix, talked all week about how much he loves the United States and how badly he wanted to win in his return.

With the stars and stripes of the American flag painted on top of his helmet, Hamilton pulled off the daring move of the race with his pass.

Vettel had been dominant in practice and qualifying on the new \$400 million track that none of the teams had driven before this week, but couldn't hold off the former world champion Sunday.

Vettel survived the chaos of the start as the drivers reached the top of the 133-

foot elevation at the signature first turn, then whipped around and down into the second before hitting a series of curves.

Vettel kept clear of the congestion and looked to be off and running to a victory.

But Hamilton kept looking for his chance on every pass through the straightaway before he finally found the room he needed.

Alonso had to work hard to keep up and keep the chase for the drivers' championship going.

Alonso was set to start in eighth.

He got a boost to seventh when Ferrari broke the gearbox seal of Alonso's teammate, Felipe Massa,

incurring a five-spot penalty for Massa that allowed Alonso to move up.

Alonso used the better position to immediately advance three spots on the first lap.

He ran into trouble with a bad pit stop when his crew struggled to replace his rear left wheel, but made up enough ground to finish third.

Vettel still leads the drivers' championship race by 13 points.

The 25-year-old German would be just the third driver to win three consecutive titles, joining Juan Manuel Fangio and Michael Schumacher.

Alonso, 31, of Spain, won consecutive titles in 2005 and 2006. □



McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain points to his helmet after winning the Formula One U.S. Grand Prix auto race at the Circuit of the Americas Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

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ELISABETH ROSENTHAL
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Randall Kinnaird's legal clients had steroids injected into their backs last summer for a wide range of reasons. Of the 25, one got three shots in a two-month period when pain never totally disappeared. Another got one as a preventive measure because she was going on a trip to Europe and was worried that cobblestones would aggravate an old injury. Now the 25 – or their survivors – have engaged Kinnaird, one of Nashville, Tenn.'s leading lawyers, to sue the New England Compounding Center. Three have died, one is paralyzed, several more are still hospitalized and all suffer blinding headaches – victims of the meningitis that resulted from vials of steroid medicine contaminated by fungus. The New England Compounding Center certainly seems deserving of its current status as the prime culprit in a tragic outbreak that has killed 32 and sick-

ened 438. The bottles of supposedly sterile steroid medication it shipped were reportedly so tainted that white fuzz could be seen floating in some vials. But, experts say, the now notorious Compounding Center has a nationwide network of unwitting en-

tions to treat back pain has skyrocketed in the past 15 years – out of proportion to growth in the number of patients with back pain, or the aging of the population. The frequency of steroid injections dispensed to Medicare patients rose 121 percent from 1997 to 2006.

doing lots of injections for conditions that haven't been shown to benefit," says Dr. Janna Friedly, a researcher at the University of Washington, who added, "Sadly, some of the patients who got meningitis were probably in that category – they did not have

But Dr. Laxmaiah Manchikanti, head of the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, said the increasing number of spine injections was just part of "an exponential increase in all interventional techniques" and is a good thing, reflecting a better understanding of chronic pain and patients' demands for improved pain relief.

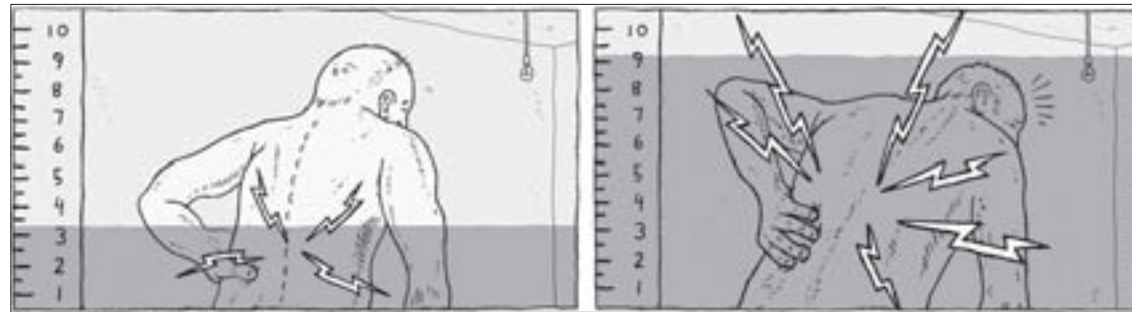
Though doctors are still arguing, most academic researchers say there is no evidence that steroid injections are useful in easing straightforward chronic low back pain.

Professional guidelines say such shots should generally not be used for back pain that is less than four to six weeks old, which studies show almost always gets better with noninvasive treatments.

Although many Medicare patients get spinal injections to treat a condition called spinal stenosis, a narrowing of spaces between bones of the spine, Friedly said, shots are not used for that condition in many European countries.

Spinal injections, which can cost between \$600 and \$2,500, including the fees for treatment rooms, have been fostered and promoted by the rising number of pain clinics and pain specialists – mostly anesthesiologists and rehab doctors – who invest in extra training to learn procedures like spinal injections.

"There used to be only a small number of people who did this, but that's gone way up, and reimbursement has gone up, too," says Scott Forseen, a doctor who studies the treatment of back pain at the Georgia Health Sciences University. □



The use of steroid injections to treat back pain has skyrocketed in the past 15 years -- far out of proportion to growth in the number of patients with back pain, or the aging of the population.

(Jonathon Rosen/The New York Times)

ablers and accomplices: There are the doctors who overprescribe an invasive back-pain therapy that, in studies, has not proved useful for many of the patients who get it. And there are the patients, living in an increasingly medicalized society, who want a quick fix for life's aches and pains. The use of steroid injec-

Washington state found that the use of back injections grew 12.6 percent between 2006 and 2009, at a cost to the state of \$56 million. Some people received more than 10 shots a year. The increase in treatment has not led to less pain over all, researchers say, and is a huge expense at a time of runaway health costs. "There are lots of places

conditions where steroid injections were indicated." Studies are at best inconclusive about exactly which groups of back-pain patients are likely to benefit from steroid shots. Though some patients clearly get much-needed relief, health researchers are nearly unanimous that the treatment is vastly overused in the U.S.

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California debuts landmark program to cap emissions

JASON DEAREN
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California began auctioning permits Wednesday for greenhouse gas emissions, launching one of the world's most ambitious efforts to cut heat-trapping gases from industrial sources.

The California Air Resources Board said it began selling the pollution "allowances" in a closed, online auction expected to create the world's second-largest marketplace for carbon emissions.

Under the program, the state sets a limit, or cap, on emissions from individual polluters. Businesses are required to either cut emissions to cap levels or buy allowances through the auction from other companies for each extra ton of pollution discharged annually.

The board said the results of the auction — what price is paid for a ton of carbon, and how many companies participated — would be released Nov. 19.

The cap-and-trade plan is a central piece of AB32, the state's landmark 2006 global warming regulations.

The auction was being closely watched nationally, as the world's ninth-largest economy institutes a program that has eluded lawmakers in Washington.

Only the European Union has implemented a similar plan in terms of scope, and it currently operates the world's largest carbon marketplace. A much less inclusive cap-and-trade scheme covers only electricity producers in the northeastern United States. Failure of the California program would be a devastating blow to carbon control efforts nationally, said Severin Borenstein, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, an expert on energy economics.

"Cap and trade is still probably the most likely way we eventually could get to a national carbon mitigation program," Borenstein said. For the first two years of the

program, large industrial emitters will receive 90 percent of their allowances for free in a soft start meant to give companies time to reduce emissions through new technologies or other means.

The cap, or number of allowances, will decline over time in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions year-by-year. If a business cuts emissions below its cap, it could profit by selling its extra allowances at a later auction.

Firms can also generate credits by investing in forestry and other projects that remove carbon from the atmosphere. Those credits can satisfy up to 8 percent of a company's mandated emissions reductions. Some businesses targeted by the program have argued the increased costs will drive jobs out of California. Executives also argue it could result in increased emissions by businesses in neighboring states that boost production to grab business.

"Raising costs in California will allow out-of-state firms to lower prices and take market share," said Shelly Sullivan of the AB32 Implementation Group, a business coalition that supports greenhouse gas reductions but opposes the auctioning of allowances.

"As it stands now the auction equates to a tax for these businesses to continue to operate in the state," Sullivan said. "Those costs will be passed through to consumers."

The California Chamber of Commerce has filed a lawsuit challenging the air board's authority to sell the allowances to generate revenue for the state. It claims the sale of allowances is an illegal tax because taxes need a two-thirds vote by the Legislature. Stanley Young, a board spokesman, said cap-and-trade will withstand legal scrutiny. "This market-based approach to cutting greenhouse emissions gives businesses the flexibility to best decide how to reduce their emis-

sions," Young said.

The board estimates that about \$1 billion could be raised from the sale of allowances in fiscal year 2012-13. About 23 million allowances will be sold for 2013 emissions, and 39.5 million allowances were being pre-sold Wednesday for 2015 emissions. There is some uncertainty about how the money will be used. □



This March 9, 2010 file photo shows a tanker truck passing the Chevron oil refinery in Richmond, Calif.

Associated Press

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J.C. Penney CEO tries to change the way we shop

Anne d'Innocenzio
AP Retail Writer
NEW YORK (AP) -- J.C. Penney CEO Ron Johnson seems unfazed that the department store chain's mounting losses and sales declines have led to growing criticism of his plan to change the way we shop. Perhaps that's because this isn't the first time during Johnson's 30-year career that he's attempted what seemed impossible. People predicted he'd fail at selling high-end housewares and designer dresses at discounter Target, but shoppers still flock there years later for cheap chic goods. Likewise, almost no one believed that the Apple stores he designed to sell the consumer electronics giant's gadgets would make money. Yet Apple's retail operations have become the most profitable in the industry. At the time, both decisions seemed radical. Now, they each are viewed as strokes of genius. But Johnson's latest gamble is shaping up to be his biggest. He's not only aiming to reverse

the fortunes of Penney, a 110-year-old chain that has had sales declines in four of the past five years as it's struggled to adapt to changing consumer tastes and shopping habits.



Lingerie is shown at a Cosmopolitan boutique at a J.C. Penney store in New York. J.C. Penney CEO Ron Johnson seems unfazed that the department store chain's mounting losses and sales declines have led to growing criticism of his plan to change the way we shop.

He's also attempting to do something no other retailer has before: reinvent the department store from the ground up. Since leaving Apple to become Penney's CEO in November, Johnson has been overhauling everything from the retailer's pricing to its merchandise to its stores. He got rid of

most sales. He's brought in hip brands. And he's replacing rows of clothing racks with small shops that make the stores feel like outdoor mini malls.

But since Penney started

tail revolution without an army of consumers behind him," says Burt Flickinger, III, president of a retail consultancy. "Penney will suffer dire financial and competitive circumstances as a result."

But Johnson, 53, a Midwest native who speaks about his vision for J.C. Penney Co. with boyish enthusiasm, is undeterred: "Lots of people think we're crazy. But that's what it takes to get ahead." Johnson's plan was designed to wean customers off the markdowns they'd become accustomed to, but that eat into profits. He ditched the nearly 600 sales Penney offered throughout the year for a three-tiered strategy that permanently lowered prices on all items in the store by 40 percent, and offered monthlong sales on select items and periodic clearance events throughout the year.

Penney, based in Plano, Texas, also stopped giving out coupons and banished the words "sale" and "clearance" in its new "fair

and square" advertising campaign. The ads were colorful and whimsical: In one spot, a dog jumped through a hula hoop that a little girl held. The text read: "No more jumping through hoops. No coupon clipping. No door busting. Just great prices from the start." Johnson's plan received a warm reception at first. Investors began pushing Penney's stock up after he announced the plan in late January: It rose nearly 25 percent to peak at \$43 in the days after the plan was rolled out in February. Analysts used words like "visionary" and "revolutionary" to describe the plan. The honeymoon didn't last. After most of Penney's coupons and sales disappeared, so did its customers. And the ads didn't help: They were praised for being entertaining, but criticized for not explaining the new pricing. But Johnson's decision to get rid of monthlong sales hurt more than it helped. On Nov. 9, the company posted its third consecutive big quarterly loss and revenue decline. □

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

the changes, the chain has reported three consecutive quarters of big losses on steep sales declines. Its stock has lost more than half its value. Its credit rating is in junk status. And critics are beginning to doubt that Johnson has what it takes to make the chain cool.

"He's trying to start a re-

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Wedding trade expects boost from gay-marriage

Clarke Canfield
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) -- In the two weeks since Maine voters approved a law allowing same-sex marriage, Clay Hill Farm has been getting phone calls and emails from gay couples inquiring about open dates and wedding packages at the restaurant and wildlife sanctuary, a popular wedding spot in York.

The law won't go into effect for more than six weeks, but already couples from in and out of state have called, said Jennifer Lewis-McShera, who heads the wedding department there.

Clay Hill Farm puts on dozens of wedding ceremonies a year, as well as receptions and rehearsal dinners, and provides catering services to wedding parties at other locations. Legalizing same-sex marriage can only help, Lewis-McShera said.

"It will increase business in this area because we'll attract more couples from Boston and the New York metropolitan area who now can have the wedding of their dreams in Maine," she said. "This puts Maine on the map."

Add the coast of Maine,



Sarah Dowling, left, speaks at a gay marriage rally, accompanied by her partner of 18 years, Linda Wolfe, and their daughter, Maya Dowling-Wolfe, in Portland, Maine. Dowling and Wolfe plan to marry now that Mainer's have legalized same-sex marriage.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

the banks of the Chesapeake Bay and the shores of Lake Washington to gay wedding destinations. Next month and in January, laws go into effect in Maine, Maryland and Washington that allow same-sex marriage. They're the first states where voters approved such laws, rather than legislators or courts.

Nearly 18,000 same-sex couples in those states will exchange vows in the first three years after the new laws are in effect, estimated The Williams Institute, a national think tank at the UCLA School of Law, and the laws should generate at least \$166 million in

wedding spending in the three states over the next three years from in-state couples alone, boosting tax revenues and creating new jobs. Wedding-related spending for in-state couples is projected be about \$16 million in Maine, \$63 million in Maryland and \$89 million in Washington.

The numbers go up when figuring in out-of-staters who travel to those states to be wed. In Maine, for instance, the new law could boost the state economy by \$25 million and create up to 250 new jobs in the coming three years, said Lee Badgett, research director at the Williams In-

stitute and an economics professor at the University of Massachusetts.

"Now Maine will be able to make its case: This is beautiful, you should come here to get married," Badgett said. The average cost for a wedding nationally is about \$27,000, and about \$2,000 less in Maine, York said. Other states that have legalized gay marriage have benefited economically as a result. Same-sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and the District of Columbia. Cindy Sproul co-owns North Carolina-based Rainbow Wedding Network, which

produces gay and lesbian wedding expos in Seattle and other cities. Just since the election, she's seen a 30 to 40 percent increase in companies wanting to advertise with the company in Washington state. "There are a lot of couples that will cross state lines to get married. Maybe they want to make a long weekend of it," Sproul said. "I imagine there will be couples from Oregon who will come up." In Maine, a Portland man has launched what he's calling the first online wedding directory, www.gay-weddingsinmaine.com, connecting same-sex couples with gay-friendly businesses. □

Qatar Airways:

No plans for budget carrier

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The head of fast-growing Qatar Airways says there are no immediate plans to launch a budget airline to compete with Dubai's expanding low-cost carrier.

Instead, CEO Akbar al-Baker says Qatar Airways will concentrate on enlarging

its global network as part of rivalries with Gulf carriers Emirates and Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways. Al-Baker is quoted Saturday by the Dubai-based Khaleej Times as saying there are no current plans to create a budget airline to challenge the growing market share of government-

backed flydubai, which began service in 2009 and now serves more than 50 destinations. But al-Baker said Qatar Airways keeps "options open" on all future plans. Al-Baker made the comments earlier this week in Seattle after he took delivery of the airline's first Boeing 787 Dreamliner. □

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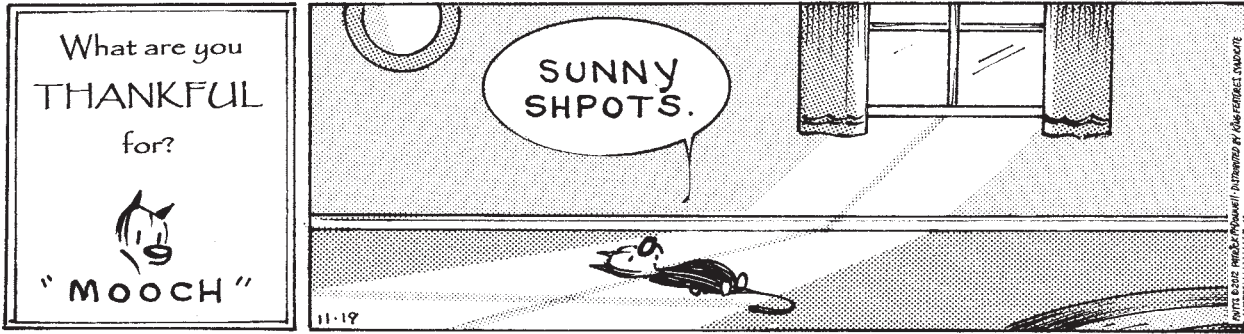
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Conceptis Sudoku

3	8		5		9		6
	7			9		4	
4		9			5		7
	9			3			
2			8	1	7		3
				4		1	
7		4				8	1
	5		6			7	
1	6		7		3		9

Difficulty Level ★

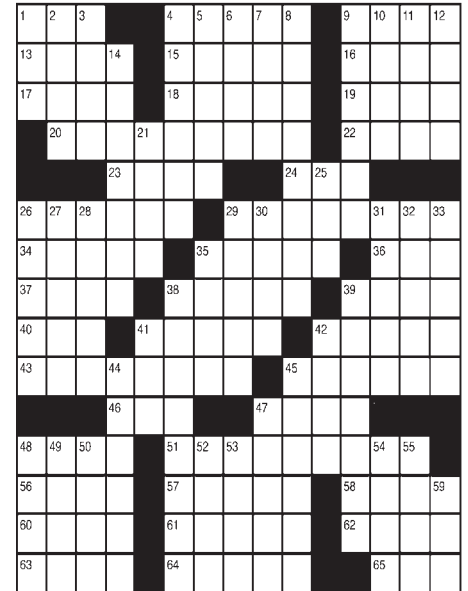
11/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

8	2	6	5	7	1	3	9	4
7	3	5	4	9	6	8	2	1
4	1	9	3	8	2	7	5	6
9	4	3	1	5	8	6	7	2
1	6	8	7	2	9	4	3	5
2	5	7	6	3	4	9	1	8
3	8	2	9	6	5	1	4	7
5	7	4	8	1	3	2	6	9
6	9	1	2	4	7	5	8	3

ACROSS

- Shortest month: abbr.
- Deep pit
- Lather
- ___ West of "Batman"
- Skier's incline
- Continent east of Russia
- Laundry detergent name
- Cake ingredient
- Charges
- About to fall
- Martial ___; judo, karate, etc.
- Small pie
- Where to find the cochlea
- No-nonsense
- Madrid native
- Grouchy fellow
- Like umbrella weather
- Wine and dine
- Ladder step
- ___ mignon; steak choice
- Ring of light over a saint
- Don't just sit there
- Kitchen floor installer, often
- Drill or awl
- Voice mails
- Embrace
- Flightless bird
- Barber's concern
- "Ali ___ and the Forty Thieves"
- Resisting authority
- Wickedness
- Perfect
- Vittles
- Carry
- Chutzpah
- Days of ___; yesteryear
- Filled with holy wonder
- Go into
- Berry or Norton



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/19/12

DOWN

- Too heavy
- Correct before publication
- Commanded
- State positively
- ___ out; say without thinking
- Cartoon bear
- Bridge
- Police officer's superior
- African hunting expedition
- Consumer
- Count calories
- Be impudent
- Conference
- Carpet nail
- Not ___ longer; no more
- Word to a pest
- Cease-fire
- Carries on
- Soupy of TV
- Landing place
- Not in the dark
- Acting parts
- The ___; Jim Morrison's band
- Vex
- Hummel, e.g.
- Appall
- Scottish cap
- Arrestee's hope
- Closed tightly
- Visitor
- Fling with effort
- Alpha's follower
- Declare openly
- Use the teeth
- Biblical garden
- Parks or Lehr
- Small recess
- VP Al ___
- TV room, often

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

B	E	D	S		P	A	S	T	E		I	T	E	M
E	V	E	R		A	B	O	I	L		S	O	L	O
R	E	D	S		N	A	R	C	I	S	S	I	S	M
G	N	U			D	I	C	E			M	U	L	E
					C	L	A	C	K		S	E	E	
E	A	T	E	R	S				P	L	A	S	M	A
A	L	I	E	N		P	O	L	A	R		A	R	C
S	O	B	S		V	E	N	O	M		F	I	S	H
Y	U	L			P	I	N	E	D		G	E	N	O
					D	E	F	E	N	D		D	O	E
					E	S	E			R	O	A	S	T
L	A	S	S	O			L	A	D	D		R	Y	E
U	N	A	S	S							P	E	E	L
A	N	T	E		S	I	E	G	E		H	A	L	L
U	S	E	D		A	D	D	E	R		I	M	P	S

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11/19/12

Legends, just being themselves

BEN SISARIO

© 2012 New York Times

John and Yoko are there, talking for hours and hours – during a bed-in, at a “happening,” listening to the Beatles at home.



Howard Smith interviews John Lennon and Yoko Ono at Ronnie Hawkins' farm in Ontario, Canada, 1969.

(The Smith Tapes via The New York Times)

Dennis Hopper and Peter Fonda, just back from Cannes in June 1969, rap about their new movie, “Easy Rider.”

Eric Clapton, between shows at the Fillmore East in 1970, struggles with a sense of responsibility for his new band, Derek and the Dominos.

Those are among more than 100 interviews with rock stars, artists and assorted radicals recorded from 1969 to 1972 by Howard Smith, a longtime writer for The Village Voice. They have now been cataloged and packaged for the digital era as “The Smith Tapes” and will be released in monthly batches over the next year. The first, with John Lennon and Yoko Ono, Lou Reed, Frank Zappa, Clapton and others, comes out Tuesday through Amazon's MP3 store and next week on iTunes.

At a time when rock ‘n’ roll, the sexual revolution and the anti-war counterculture all intersected, Smith spoke to seemingly every boldface name for “Scenes,” his influential col-

umn in The Voice. He also had a knack for being in precisely the right place at the right time. In one of his most famous columns, from the summer of 1969, he described being trapped with the police inside the Stonewall Inn as the famous riot raged outside.

“The Smith Tapes,” drawn primarily from interviews for his Voice column and a radio program he had at the time on WABC-FM (which became WPLJ), feature many of these people at pivotal moments in pop culture and in their own lives, speaking candidly and often at unusual length. One of the five Lennon-Ono interviews in the collection lasts two hours.

Although little known now to younger New Yorkers, Smith was a prominent name at The Voice during what is often considered the paper's golden age.

His column ran from the late 1960s into the ‘80s and was structured as free-form vignettes chronicling pop culture and groovy urban life. He even won an Oscar, for “Marjoe,” his 1972 documentary about the young evangelist Marjoe Gortner. Smith, now 76 and by his own description laid low by cancer, said he kept the tapes at his downtown loft with a vague notion of someday using them for his memoirs. Over the years, though, they became buried under piles of detritus.

“I thought it would be a good memory jogger,” Smith said. “Things were happening every day that were just incredible.”

The tapes were uncovered in 2000 when one of his sons, the architect Cass Calder Smith, helped his father move to a new apartment. Cass Smith spent several years sorting and digitizing the tapes and sold a few before he met Bookstein, and they decided to collaborate on the project. □

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Mars rover Curiosity set to hit the road again

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After playing in the sand, the Curiosity rover is poised to trek across the Martian landscape in search of a rock to drill into, scientists reported Thursday.

The six-wheel rover has been parked for more than a month at a sand dune where it has been busy scooping up soil, sniffing the atmosphere and measuring radiation levels on the surface.

Its next task is to zero in on a rock and that requires driving to a new location.

Mission deputy scientist Ashwin Vasavada expected Curiosity to be on the move in the "next few days."

"It's the bedrock which really gives you the story of ancient Mars," said Vasavada of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages the \$2.5 billion mission.

"The soil is a little harder to interpret because we don't know how old it is or where it came from."

The car-size rover touched down in Gale Crater, an ancient depression near the Martian equator, in August on a two-year mission to probe whether the land-



This image by NASA shows marks in the Martian soil made by the rover Curiosity.

ing site once had conditions capable of supporting microbial life. Armed with a high-tech suite of instruments, it's the most sophisticated spacecraft to ever land on the red planet.

During the first three months, a weather station aboard Curiosity detected brief drops in air pressure, a sign of whirlwinds in the region.

"These events are starting to occur more and more often," said Manuel de la Torre Juarez of NASA JPL. "We expect to see more in the future."

Previous rovers have spotted and even recorded dust devils dancing across the Martian terrain, but scientists said Curiosity has not yet seen evidence that the swirling winds have lifted dust. □

Study: Stone spear tip made by earlier ancestor



This undated image provided by Jayne Wilkins shows different angles of an estimated 500,000-year-old stone point from Kathu Pan, South Africa. The scale bar at bottom is 1 centimeter long.

Associated Press

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists say they've found evidence that stone tips for spears were made much earlier than thought, maybe even created by an earlier ancestor than has been believed.

Both Neanderthals and members of our own species, *Homo sapiens*, used stone tips — a significant development that made

spears more effective, lethal hunting weapons. The new findings from South Africa suggest that maybe they didn't invent that technology, but inherited it from their last shared ancestor, *Homo heidelbergensis*.

The researchers put the date of the South African stone tips at about half-a-million years ago — 200,000 years earlier than other research has suggested.

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Appeal by 'Desperate Housewives' actress denied

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The California Supreme Court has declined to review Nicollette Sheridan's lawsuit over the demise of her role on "Desperate Housewives."

The state's high court said Friday it would deny an appeal by the actress in her wrongful termination case against the ABC network and Touchstone Television. Sheridan said she was fired because she claimed she was hit in the head by series creator Marc Cherry. ABC attorneys claimed Sheridan's contract simply was not renewed.

In March, jurors deadlocked after a two-week trial. An appeals court found in August that Sheridan was not entitled to a new trial, but should be allowed to file an amended lawsuit claiming she was retaliated against because she complained about her boss.



Desperate Housewives star, Nicollette Sheridan.
Associated Press

"Desperate Housewives" concluded its eight-season run this year. Calls to Sheridan's representatives were not immediately returned Sunday. □

More celebrities help U.S. tribes' push for sacred land

KRISTI EATON
Associated Press
SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota (AP) — More celebrities are backing an online campaign to raise money so that Native American tribes in South Dakota can purchase land they consider sacred.

P Diddy and Bette Midler are the latest big names to throw their support behind a fundraising effort to buy nearly 2,000 acres (800 hectares) of pristine prairie grass in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Three days after the campaign began, P Diddy tweeted: "Help save the Sioux Nation! Click here," and linked to the website. Midler also lent her voice, tweeting: "Incredible story re the Sioux Sacred Grounds. Donate what you can."

More than \$18,000 had been raised as of Sunday afternoon — \$6,000 flowed in immediately after P Diddy's tweet. The campaign will last through Nov. 30, when the tribes of the Great Sioux Nation must have \$9 million in order to purchase the land.



In this April 14, 2012 file photo, Bette Midler introduces the late Laura Nyro for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.
Associated Press

The tribes have raised \$7 million so far for the 1,942 acres, which they call Pe' Sla (pay shlaw), or "old baldy."

Continued on Page 30

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store

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'Twilight' finale dawns with \$141.3M weekend

DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The sun has set on the "Twilight" franchise with one last blockbuster opening for the supernatural romance. "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 2" sucked up \$141.3 million domestically over opening weekend and \$199.6 million more overseas for a worldwide debut of \$340.9 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The finale ranks eighth on the list of all-time domestic debuts, and leaves "Twilight" with three of the top-10 openings, joining 2009's "New Moon" (No. 7 with \$142.8 million) and last year's "Breaking Dawn — Part 1" (No. 9 with \$138.1 million). V Last May's "The Avengers" is No. 1 with \$207.4 million. "Batman" is the only other franchise with more than one top-10 opening: July's "The Dark Knight Rises" (No. 3 with \$160.9 million) and 2008's "The Dark Knight" (No. 4 with \$158.4 million). Though "Twilight" still is a female-driven franchise, with girls and women making up 79 percent of the opening-weekend audience, the finale drew the series' biggest male crowds. Action-minded guys had more to



This film image released by Summit Entertainment shows Kristen Stewart, left, and Robert Pattinson in a scene from "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2."

Associated Press

root for in the finale as Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner join in a colossal battle to end the story of warring vampires and werewolves. "Our male audience particularly has enjoyed this film," said Richie Fay, head of distribution for Lionsgate, whose Summit Entertainment banner releases the "Twilight" movies. "With the action scenes in this one, we're hoping the holdover business will reflect the fact

that males have kind of found it out." The movie also helped lift Lionsgate into the big leagues among Hollywood studios. Paced by its \$400 million smash with "The Hunger Games" and now the "Twilight" finale, Lionsgate surpassed \$1 billion at the domestic box office for the first time. Some box-office watchers had expected the last "Twilight" movie to open with a franchise record the way the "Harry Potter" finale did

last year with \$169.2 million, the second-best domestic debut on the charts. "I thought that for the final installment, it might eclipse the franchise record, but to look at \$141.3 million and say that's a disappointment, that's kind of crazy," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "It's one of the most consistently performing franchises of all time." The "Twilight" finale took over the No.

1 spot from Sony's James Bond adventure "Skyfall," which slipped to second place with \$41.5 million domestically in its second weekend. "Skyfall" raised its domestic total to \$161.3 million. The franchise's third film starring Daniel Craig as Bond, "Skyfall" began rolling out overseas in late October and has hit \$507.9 million internationally at the box office. The film's global total climbed to \$669.2 million, helping to lift Sony to its best year ever with \$4 billion worldwide, topping the studio's \$3.6 billion haul in 2009. "Skyfall" passed the previous franchise high of \$599.2 million worldwide for 2006's "Casino Royale." Steven Spielberg and Daniel Day-Lewis' Civil War drama "Lincoln" expanded nationwide after a week in limited release and came in at No. 3 with \$21 million. Distributed by Disney, "Lincoln" lifted its domestic haul to \$22.4 million. The comic drama "Silver Linings Playbook," released by the Weinstein Co., got off to a good start in limited release, taking in \$458,430 in 16 theaters for a solid average of \$28,652 a cinema. By comparison, the "Twilight" finale averaged \$34,717 in 4,070 theaters. □

sacred land

Continued from Page 29

There are Sioux tribes in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska and Canada. The property is important to their creation story, and tribal members have long held ceremonies there. When the land was put up for sale, tribal members worried it would be developed because of its proximity to Mount Rushmore. Landowners Leonard and Margaret Reynolds canceled a public auction of the property earlier this year after tribal members expressed outrage. The Reynolds then accepted the tribes' bid to purchase the land for \$9 million if they

have the money by Nov. 30. The couple has repeatedly said they will not speak publicly about the land sale. P Diddy and Midler join actor Ezra Miller and hip-hop producer Sol Guy in showing their support for the cause. Miller, who appears in the recently released movie "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," and Sol Guy flew to South Dakota last month to film a nine-minute documentary-style video about the land that is being used as part of the online campaign. Miller said the three days he spent in South Dakota learning about the land and the Lakota tribes was life-altering. "From the moment I arrived to the moment I departed,



In this March 4, 2012 photo, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs arrives for the Givenchy's fashion house presentation for Women's Fall-Winter, ready-to-wear 2013 fashion collection, during Paris Fashion week.

Associated Press

I was struck repeatedly by an unshakable sensation that this land truly carried something unspeakably important," Miller said in an email interview with The Associated Press. "There is a motion and a beauty out there in those hills that words cannot do justice." He said the fact that the Lakota tribes have done Sundance ceremonies on the land for thousands of years is a "magical reality," and that America has erased too much of the land's true history. Sol Guy, whose TV show "4Real" airing on MTV Canada and the National Geographic Channel has taken celebrities such as Cameron Diaz to Peru and Joaquin Phoenix to the Amazon, said he has been busy sharing the informa-

tion with his various networks to get the word out and is confident the tribes will be successful in raising all the money. "My first hope is not to demand people to give money," Sol Guy said. "If they can afford it, great. But I think what's more important is that people take it in and learn the history and spread the word and have the conversations about it." Chase Iron Eyes, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe who started the online campaign and appeared in the video, said he wants the celebrity endorsements to help raise money, but more than anything, he hopes it will widen the network of people who are thinking about the land and what it means for the tribes. □

The Age Of Possibility



DAVID BROOKS
© 2012 New York Times

At some point over the past generation, people around the world entered what you might call the age of possibility. They became intolerant of any arrangement that might close off their personal options.

The transformation has been liberating, and it's leading to some pretty astounding changes. For example, for centuries, most human societies forcefully guided people into two-parent families. Today that sort of family is increasingly seen as just one option among many.

The number of Americans who are living alone has shot up from 9 percent in 1950 to 28 percent today. In 1990, 65 percent of Americans said that children are very important to a successful marriage. Now, only 41 percent of Americans say they believe that. There are now more American houses with dogs than with children.

This is not a phenomenon particular to the United States. In Scandinavia, 40 percent to 45 percent of the people live alone. The number of marriages in Spain has declined from 270,000 in 1975 to 170,000 today, and the number of total Spanish births per year is now lower than it was in the 18th century.

Thirty percent of German women say they do not intend to have children. In a 2011 survey, a majority of Taiwanese women under 50 said they did not want children. Fertility rates in Brazil have dropped from 4.3 babies per woman 35 years ago to 1.9 babies today.

These are all stunningly fast cultural and demographic shifts. The world is moving in the same basic direction, from societies oriented around the two-parent family to cafeteria societies with many options.

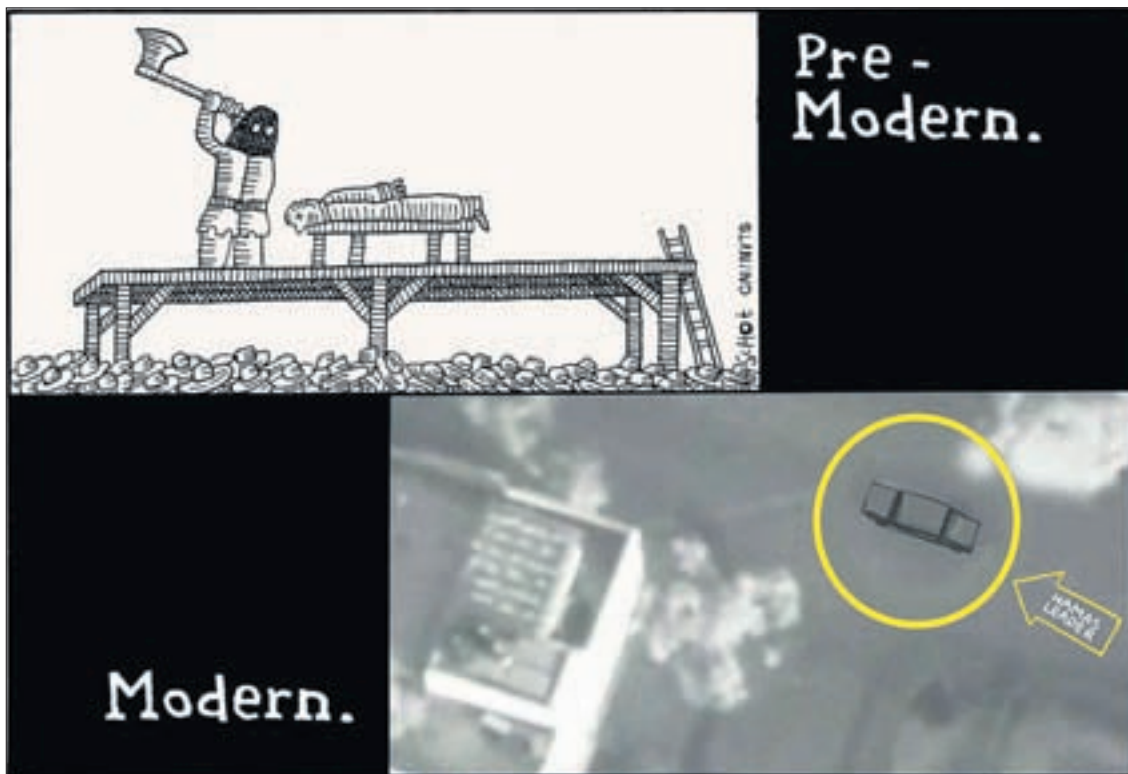
This global phenomenon has been expertly analyzed in a report called "The Rise of Post-Familialism: Humanity's Future?" written by a team of scholars including Joel Kotkin, Anuradha Shroff, Ali Modarres and Wendell Cox. Why is this happening? The report offers many explanations. People are less religious. People in many parts of the world are more pessimistic and feeling greater economic stress. Global capitalism also seems to be playing a role, especially, it seems, in Asia.

Many people are committed to their professional development and fear that if they don't put in many hours at work they will fall behind or close off lifestyle

options. Toru Suzuki, a researcher at the National Institute of Population and Society Security Research in Japan, gave Kotkin's team this explanation in its baldest form: "Under the social and economic systems of developed countries, the cost of a child outweighs the child's usefulness." Singapore is one of the most interesting cases. Like most Asian societies, it used to be incredibly family-centered. But, as the economy boomed, the marriage rate plummeted. Singapore now has one of the lowest fertility rates in the world. "The focus in Singapore is not to enjoy life, but to keep score: in school, in jobs, in income," one 30-year-old Singaporean demographer told the researchers. "Many see getting attached as an impediment to this."

This cultural shift is bound to have huge consequences. Globally, countries that remain fertile, like the U.S., will do fine while countries that don't, like Japan, will decline. Geographically, singles will dominate city life while two-parent families will be out in suburbia. Politically, married people in America are more likely to vote Republican; Mitt Romney easily won among married voters, including married women. Democrats, meanwhile, have done a much better job relating to single people. President Barack Obama crushed Romney among singles, 62 percent to 35 percent.

The 2012 election results illustrate the gradual transition we are making from one sort of demography (the current Republican coalition) toward another sort of demography (the Democratic coalition). The rise of post-familialism is a piece of that shift. My view is that the age of possibility is based on a misconception. People are not better off when they are given maximum personal freedom to do what they want. They're better off when they are enshrouded in commitments that transcend personal choice – commitments to family, God, craft and country. The surest way people bind themselves is through the family. As a practical matter, the traditional family is an effective way to induce people to care about others, become active in their communities and devote themselves to the long-term future of their nation and their kind. Therefore, our laws and attitudes should be biased toward family formation and fertility, including child tax credits, generous family leave policies and the like. But the two-parent family is obviously not the only way people bind themselves. We are inevitably entering a world in which more people search for different ways to attach. Before jumping to the conclusion that the world is going to hell, it's probably a good idea to investigate these emerging commitment devices. The problem is not necessarily a changing family structure. It's people who go through adulthood perpetually trying to keep their options open. □



Three Certainties: Life, Death And Deficits



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2012 New York Times

America's political landscape is infested with many zombie ideas – beliefs about policy that have been repeatedly refuted with evidence and analysis but refuse to die. The most prominent zombie is the insistence that low taxes on rich people are the key to prosperity. But there are others.

And right now the most dangerous zombie is probably the claim that rising life expectancy justifies a rise in both the Social Security retirement age and the age of eligibility for Medicare. Even some Democrats – including, according to reports, the president – have seemed susceptible to this argument. But it's a cruel, foolish idea – cruel in the case of Social Security, foolish in the case of Medicare – and we shouldn't let it eat our brains.

First of all, you need to understand that while life expectancy at birth has gone up a lot, that's not relevant to this issue; what matters is life expectancy for those at or near retirement age. When, to take one example, Alan Simpson – the co-chairman of President Barack Obama's deficit commission – declared that Social Security was "never intended as a retirement program" because life expectancy when it was founded was only 63, he was displaying his ignorance. Even in 1940, Americans who made it to age 65 generally had many years left.

Now, life expectancy at age 65 has risen, too. But the rise has been very uneven since the 1970s, with only the relatively affluent and well-educated seeing large gains. Bear in mind, too, that the full retirement age has already gone up to 66 and is scheduled to rise to 67 under current law.

This means that any further rise in the retirement age would be a harsh blow to Americans in the bottom half of the income distribution, who aren't living much longer, and who, in many cases, have jobs requiring physical effort that's difficult even for healthy seniors. And these are precisely the people who depend most on Social Security. So any rise in the Social Security retirement age would, as I said, be cruel, hurting the most vulnerable Americans. And this cruelty would be gratuitous: While the United States does have a long-run budget problem, Social Security is not a major factor in that problem.

Medicare, on the other hand, is a big budget problem. But raising the eligibility age, which means forcing seniors to seek private insurance, is no way to deal with that problem.

It's true that thanks to Obamacare, seniors should actually be able to get insurance even without Medicare. (Although, what happens if a number of states block the expansion of Medicaid that's a crucial piece of the program?) But let's be clear: Government insurance via Medicare is better and more cost-effective than private insurance.

You might ask why, in that case, health reform didn't just extend Medicare to everyone, as opposed to setting up a system that continues to rely on private insurers.

The answer, of course, is political realism. Given the power of the insurance industry, the Obama administration had to keep that industry in the loop. But the fact that Medicare for all may have

been politically out of reach is no reason to push millions of Americans out of a good system into a worse one.

What would happen if we raised the Medicare eligibility age? The federal government would save only a small amount of money, because younger seniors are relatively healthy and hence low-cost.

Meanwhile, however, those seniors would face sharply higher out-of-pocket costs. How could this trade-off be considered good policy?

The bottom line is that raising the age of eligibility for either Social Security benefits or Medicare would be destructive, making Americans' lives worse without contributing in any significant way to deficit reduction. Democrats, in particular, who even consider either alternative need to ask themselves what on earth they think they're doing.

But what, ask the deficit scolds, do people like me propose doing about rising spending? The answer is to do what every other advanced country does, and make a serious effort to rein in health care costs. Give Medicare the ability to bargain over drug prices.

Let the Independent Payment Advisory Board, created as part of Obamacare to help Medicare control costs, do its job instead of crying "death panels." (And isn't it odd that the same people who demagogue attempts to help Medicare save money are eager to throw millions of people out of the program altogether?) We know that we have a health care system with skewed incentives and bloated costs, so why don't we try to fix it?

What we know for sure is that there is no good case for denying older Americans access to the programs they count on. This should be a red line in any budget negotiations, and we can only hope that Obama doesn't betray his supporters by crossing it. □

Different Strokes: A golf club to divide them

KAREN CROUSE

© 2012 New York Times

A golfer in his 40s and another in his teens qualified for the Masters 105 days apart, their generation gap bridged by a broomstick shaft. The belly putters used by 43-year-old Ernie Els in his victory at the British Open in July and by 14-year-old Guan Tianlang in his win at the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship this month are the pokers stirring the game's hottest controversy, one that has smoldered for decades.

Only three players before 2001 had won PGA Tour events using a long putter; that is a generic description covering belly putters and the longer broomstick models. At the British Open, Els became the third golfer in 12 months to win a major using a long putter. More than a quarter of that field used long putters, snapping the game's guardians to attention.

The day after Els' victory, Peter Dawson, the chief executive of the R&A, the organization based in Scotland that establishes the rules of golf in concert with the United States Golf Association, warned that anchored clubs were, in effect, being put on the clock. The use of the long putter by Guan, a teenager from China, which is just emerging on the golf scene, can be seen as further proof of the club's reach.

An announcement from the R&A and the USGA on the fate of long putter is thought to be imminent. The battle lines are drawn, with purists on one side and pragmatists on the other.

Several high-profile players are caught in the crossfire as the debate intensifies over whether long putters anchored against the body illegally enhance performance or represent a technological advancement that is part of golf's evolution.

Those supporting a ban include Arnold Palmer, Tiger Woods and Tom Watson, who have won a combined 29 majors. Their argument is that anchoring the putter quiets the hands during the stroke, taking out of play nerves, which are a fundamental aspect of the game.

Brandt Snedeker, who finished first on the PGA Tour this year in strokes gained putting, is not a fan of the long putter. On Thursday's "Morning Drive" show on Golf Channel, he said: "When it comes down to having a 5-footer to win a golf tournament, I know how I feel. I know my hands are shaking. I know I am very, very nervous. I don't think it is the same feeling if you have that thing stuck in your belly." Els was among seven players who used long putters to win

on the PGA Tour in 2012. This year, his first full season using the club, Els improved to No. 112 in strokes gained putting, from No. 181. But no player ranked among the top 10 uses a long putter, buttressing the argument that it is not a magic wand.

The de facto general of the broomstick brigade is Keegan Bradley, who as a 25-year-old PGA Tour rookie at the 2011 PGA Championship became the first man to win a major using an anchored putter.

Referring to a possible ban of anchored clubs, Bradley said: "Now that it's becoming a reality, people with long putters are going to do whatever we have to do to protect ourselves."

In an interview last week, Bradley did not rule out taking legal action if the rule book is amended to prohibit players from anchoring a club to any part of their bodies, including their forearms.

"I'm not trying to bully anybody into doing anything," he said. "I just want to do whatever's best for myself and the other players that use the putter. I realize that there's some people who feel the other way, and they're entitled to their opinion."

'THAT STOVEPIPE'

In 1965, Richard T. Parmley received a U.S. patent for a long-shafted club described as a "body-pivot golf putter." This month, in the parking lot of an apartment complex in Tampa, Fla., Charlie Owens opened the trunk of his car and pulled out a long putter that he wished he had patented.

"This is my invention," he said, showing off the 52-inch club he made in the early 1980s by welding together two shafts. Owens named his putter Slim Jim, and it helped make his wallet fat; he won two events and more than \$700,000 with it on the senior tour.

His victories came in 1986, nearly a decade after poor putting from inside 5 feet had driven him off the PGA Tour and into a job in Tampa as head professional at Rogers Park Golf Course.

The putter also provided physical relief for Owens, who had trouble bending over the ball because of a surgically fused left knee, the result, he said, of a training accident he sustained in 1952 as an Army paratrooper.

"People would see me with my putter on the course and laugh about it," Owens, 80, said. "They'd say, 'What are you doing with that stovepipe in your hands?' After I won the two tournaments, they didn't laugh anymore. They wanted to know if I could get them one."

A golf club manufacturer based in California made

and marketed the Slim Jim, with limited success, Owens said. One PGA Tour player who took notice was Johnny Miller, who borrowed the idea and pieced together the long putter he unveiled at the 1985 Los Angeles Open.

In a recent telephone interview, Miller, who won two majors, likened his struggles at the time with putts inside 5 feet to a football team that keeps pushing into the red zone but cannot score a touchdown.

Miller anchored his putter's

Rocco Mediate's win at Doral in 1991.

The golf world could not help noticing in 1989 when Orville Moody won the U.S. Senior Open using a putter with a 48- to 50-inch shaft. Owens said that until Moody adopted the long putter, "he putted so bad, I almost cried." Miller said Moody was "maybe the worst putter in PGA Tour history."

Moody became a top putter on the senior tour using the long club, and the pendulum swung toward outlawing

probably something they're disappointed in themselves that it's got to this point," Graeme McDowell, the 2010 U.S. Open champion, told The Herald Sun in Australia last week. "They probably should have nipped it in the bud many, many years ago."

DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

In 1967, USGA and R&A officials moved swiftly after Sam Snead, whose perfect swing was offset in his later years by the brownest of thumbs on the greens, tied for 10th at the Masters while putting as if he were wielding a croquet mallet. The officials met and recommended that taking a stroke while astride the putting line behind the ball be made illegal, pending approval by the associations' executive committees, which signed off on the change. The rule took effect in 1968.

For those who embrace it, the long putter can be a double-edged sword, creating a tangle of emotions that is difficult to unknot.

Stewart Cink, 39, one of the better putters of his generation, adopted the long putter in 2002 and won three PGA Tour events before going back to a conventional putter in 2009. Shortly afterward, Cink won the British Open, his only major title.

"I was glad to be able to be away from the long putter because I had developed just a hint of guilt, maybe, in the back of my mind," he said. "The rules are cut-and-dried. It's legal. But emotionally it may not be so black-and-white."

Miller, an analyst for NBC and Golf Channel, spoke of the unease he felt when he first used his long putter at the Masters.

"It was slightly embarrassing for me," he said. "I remember going into the officials' room and showing them my putter and asking, 'Is this thing legal by you?'"

In 2004, Els made clear where he stood on long putters. He wanted them banned.

"Nerves and skill are part of the game," he said at the time. "You know, take a table if you can't handle it."

In the summer of 2011, Els changed putters but not necessarily his mind. Affirming his loyalty to the long putter at the end of last year, Els said, "As long as it's legal, I'll keep cheating."

Els acknowledged that the belly putter had helped him make more short putts, but he said, "Now that I've used it for the best part of a year full-on, I see the work you still have to put in with the belly, with the long putter."

If the club is banned, Els said, he will find some other tool for doing battle with 5-foot putts. "We'll see," he said. □



Charlie Owens, who developed a long putter in the 1980s and used it with some success on the senior tour, putting at Rogers Park Golf Course in Tampa, Fla. Victories with long putters by Ernie Els at the British Open and Guan Tianlang, 14, at the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship have fueled debate over a possible ban.

(Craig Litten/The New York Times)

shaft against his left forearm, as does Matt Kuchar, who won the Players Championship this year. Miller used his 44-inch Spalding putter when he tied for 50th at the Los Angeles Open and when he forged a one-stroke victory at the 1987 Pebble Beach National Pro-Am to break a title drought of more than three years.

"Not many people paid much attention," said Miller, who is believed to be the first winner on the regular tour to use a long putter, his Pebble Beach victory preceding

it. Moody indicated that he would take legal action if the club was banned. In August 1989, after much discussion, USGA officials and their R&A counterparts ruled that long putters were legal.

In October 2011, when they amended nine rules, they left the long putter alone. That was before a surge in the club's popularity at every level, and on seemingly every continent. Once seen as a crutch for older players, the long putter was flirting with conventionality and flying out of stores. "I think it's